

Effective from 30 June 2021

Purpose

The objectives of the Thoroughbred Code Protocols are to:

- Protect racing industry stakeholders (e.g., licensed persons, officials etc), licensed racing venues and training centres from the potential spread of COVID-19; and
- Continue to give guidance and structure to the core racing operations of a race meeting.

Background

The Queensland racing industry has continued to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic, subject to operational restrictions and protocols, with the approval of the Chief Health Officer. Race meetings were originally conducted without Patrons and only racing industry participants deemed as Essential Racing Personnel were permitted to attend. The core functions of racing continued under the COVID-19 Racing Code Protocols adopted by RQ.

With the easing of previous restrictions by Government, and as racing clubs transitioned to racing with Patrons, identification of Core Racing Areas for the conduct of racing operations and Patron Areas for public attendance was of principal importance.

As restrictions have continued to ease, full segregation of Patrons and Essential Racing Personnel has not been required, albeit Core Racing Areas are generally restricted to licensed participants and officials. This means the Core Racing Area for Essential Racing Personnel and racing operations have largely remained separate from Patron Areas.

Industry COVID Safe Plan

The Industry COVID Safe Plan for the Queensland Racing Industry and Racing Clubs (the Plan) was approved by the Queensland Government's Chief Health Officer in June 2020. The purpose of the Plan is to provide an overarching plan with guidance and structure to facilitate the return of Patrons to race meetings in a staged approach. The Plan deals primarily with requirements for the Patron Areas. The Plan is continually reviewed and updated in line with the Government Roadmap to easing restrictions and any directions issued by Government.

Racing clubs are required to operate under the Industry COVID Safe Plan for the Queensland Racing Industry and Racing Clubs and must publicly display the COVID Safe Statement of Compliance.

Thoroughbred Code Protocols

Included in this document are protocols and guidance relating to the core functions of a race meeting (i.e., those that relate to the Core Racing Area of the venue and Essential Racing Personnel):

- Restriction of entry to Queensland / Declared COVID-19 Hotspots (when applicable);
- Attendance – Core Racing Area Access;
- Temperature testing on arrival;
- Food and beverage service;
- Separation and hygiene:
 - Stewards;
 - Jockeys;
 - Trainers/stable staff;

- Barrier staff;
- Other officials;
- Parade ring;
- Training venues and stables; and
- Animal care providers.

Racing clubs conducting race meetings are required to meet the requirements of this document and any additional instruction, direction or advice provided by RQ, as well as any requirements of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) that may be imposed at a race meeting.

Racing clubs may provide additional information specific to their venue to assist essential racing personnel in adhering to these protocols and all relevant requirements.

Restriction of entry to Queensland / Declared COVID-19 Hotspots

From 1am AEST Saturday 19 June 2021 you must complete a declaration to enter Queensland from anywhere in Australia or New Zealand.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 in Queensland and to manage outbreaks, the Queensland Government has put in place declaration requirements for all travel into Queensland from interstate and New Zealand (on quarantine free flights).

Queensland has two types of declarations, a [Queensland Travel Declaration](#) and the [Queensland Border Declaration Pass](#).

You must complete the right declaration for your situation before you travel to enter Queensland. If conditions change or you need to update your travel details, you'll need to complete a new declaration with updated details. Queensland residents must also complete a declaration if they are returning home from interstate or New Zealand.

Queensland Travel Declaration

You must complete a [Queensland Travel Declaration](#) up to three days prior to your arrival into Queensland. The form should take about three minutes to complete and your declaration will be issued immediately via email.

By completing a Queensland Travel Declaration, the Queensland Government can quickly contact you if an interstate exposure venue or hotspot is declared. This helps reduce the risk of COVID-19 in Queensland and management of any outbreaks.

Generally, the Queensland Travel Declaration is for persons entering Queensland from Australian states or territories, or safe travel zone countries, that do not have any COVID-19 hotspots.

Note that from 1am 28 June 2021, New South Wales border zone residents will also be required to complete a travel declaration to enter Queensland. The pass is valid for 14 days. The Queensland Government advises that more information will be available in the coming days.

Queensland Border Declaration Pass

You must apply for a [Queensland Border Declaration Pass](#) three business days before entering Queensland if you have been to a declared [COVID-19 hotspot](#) in the last 14 days or since the start date identified for the hotspot (whichever is shorter). Generally you will not be allowed to enter Queensland except for a limited range of people who can enter for essential purposes.

You must also apply for a [Queensland Border Declaration Pass](#) if you have been to a state or territory that has a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days, unless you are a Queensland resident or New South Wales border zone resident who has only been in the New South Wales border zone or

Queensland in the last 14 days and you enter Queensland by road (in which case you will now require a Queensland Travel Declaration).

Current COVID-19 Hotspots

- In line with Queensland Government Border restrictions Directions issued by Queensland's Chief Health Officer, persons who have been in any declared [COVID-19 hotspots](#) in the 14 days prior to proposed entry into Queensland or since the start date identified for the COVID-19 hotspot (whichever is shorter), are not permitted to enter Queensland except through an exemption available under the Direction.
- The Queensland Government has declared the following as COVID-19 hotspots:
 - the New South Wales Local Government Areas of Waverley, Woollahra, Randwick and City of Sydney with an amended identified COVID-19 hotspot start date of 1am 11 June 2021.
 - the remaining New South Wales LGAs within the Greater Sydney region (including the Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour) with an identified COVID-19 hotspot start date of 1am 24 June 2021.
 - the Perth and Peel regions of Western Australia, with an identified COVID-19 hotspot start date of 1am 30 June 2021.
 - Darwin, Belyuen, Litchfield, Palmerston and Wagait in the Northern Territory, with an identified COVID-19 hotspot start date of 1am 30 June 2021.
- From 10am 27 June 2021, anyone who has been in any of the 35 LGAs of the Greater Sydney region (including the Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour) must follow the requirements of the Interstate Places of Concern (stay at home in Queensland) Direction. This means:
 - anyone already in Queensland who has been in the New South Wales LGAs in the Greater Sydney region (including the Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour) on or after 1am 21 June 2021 must follow the stay at home requirements for a period of 14 days since leaving the area; and
 - anyone already in Queensland who has been in the New South Wales LGAs of Waverley, Woollahra, Randwick and City of Sydney on or after 1am 11 June 2021 must continue to follow the stay at home requirements for a period of 14 days since leaving the area.

These persons are not permitted to attend a Queensland licensed racing or training venue during the period of the 14-day stay at home requirements.

- Border restrictions remain in place for anyone attempting to enter Queensland who has been in a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days or since the start date identified for the hotspot (whichever is the shorter). Returning Queensland residents and persons granted an exemption to enter Queensland, are required to go into mandatory hotel quarantine for 14 days.

Contract Tracing Alerts

- Queensland has [current contact tracing alerts and related public health advice](#) for people who have been in various exposure venues in Australia and New Zealand.
- The list of exposure venues is updated regularly. If you have been to any of the exposure venues at the relevant exposure times you must:
 - immediately travel by private transport directly to your home or accommodation and quarantine;
 - [get tested](#) at your earliest opportunity (wear a mask while you are out getting tested);

- complete the online contract tracing form by clicking on the name of the relevant exposure venue. If you are unable to complete the online contact tracing form please call 134 COVID ([134 268](tel:134268)) (after you complete the contact tracing form you will be contacted by Queensland Health).
- If you have been to any of the exposure venues at the relevant exposure times, you must continue to quarantine for 14 days even if you receive a negative test result, unless otherwise advised by a Queensland Health official. It can take 14 days before you develop symptoms or test positive to COVID-19.
- Check the interstate/overseas Government websites for the most current list of exposure venues in their respective jurisdictions:
 - [ACT Government website](#)
 - [NSW Government website](#)
 - [Northern Territory Government website](#)
 - [Victoria Government website](#)
 - [Western Australia Government website](#)
 - [New Zealand Ministry of Health website](#)
 - Note that the health advice provided by each government may differ as each manages the risk of transmission differently. If you are in Queensland, you must follow the specific health advice and restrictions provided by the Queensland Government.

Additional Government Information

The following links provide details of Queensland Government Border restrictions information and Directions, health advice and declared COVID-19 hotspots. All industry participants are required to ensure they are aware of, and comply with, any requirements contained therein.

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>

[Interstate Places of concern \(stay at home in Queensland\) | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[Queensland Travel Declaration Direction | Queensland Health](#)

[Travelling to Queensland | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[Queensland Travel Declaration | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[Queensland Border Declaration Pass | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[Contact tracing — coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

The following link provides information related to the Quarantine for International Arrivals Direction and quarantine-free flights, with reference to flights and arrivals from New Zealand to Australia:

[Quarantine for International Arrivals Direction | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#).

Inter-state horse transportation from declared COVID-19 hotspots for racing purposes

Inter-state transport of horses from any declared COVID-19 hotspots by Approved Float Companies only

- Where Government regulations allow, horses will be permitted to travel to Queensland, however any licensed or registered personnel, or essential personnel (being those currently approved for access to race meetings and training centres) are not permitted to travel with such horses, other than employees of the Approved Float Company.
- An “Approved Float Company” is any Float Company which is registered as a transport company, and which has sought and been granted approval by RQ to transport racing thoroughbred horses to Queensland from a declared COVID-19 hotspot.
- The horse’s trainer must make arrangements (notified and approved by the QRIC Stewards) through deployment of approved staff or a designated caretaker trainer within the receiving zone.
- **Trainers will be required to notify the QRIC stewards of arrangements for travel and care of horses prior to each horse’s departure.**
- Transport drivers (freight drivers) are to make prior arrangements with drop-off points and are not to access licensed premises when delivering horses (unless otherwise approved by QRIC stewards). They must remain within their cabin and a designated Queensland staff member of the horse’s trainer or caretaker trainer must be on hand to take delivery of the horse being transported.
- **Horses transported from a declared COVID-19 hotspot for the purposes of racing must have completed their journey by the time designated as 5pm on the day prior to the race meeting.**
- Upon arrival the designated staff member must ensure that any gear attached to the horse is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimize any risk of COVID-19 being spread within the stable environment.
- Prior to, and upon completion, of the journey the Float Company must ensure the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimize any risk of COVID-19 being spread on future journeys.
- Transport (freight) drivers undertaking travel from a declared COVID-19 hotspot should refer to the Direction and other guidance from the Queensland Government about additional requirements for entry into, and whilst they are in, Queensland:
<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/border-restrictions>

Attendance – Core Racing Area Access

To help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, access to the Core Racing Area is strictly restricted to Essential Racing Personnel, which includes:

- Licensed jockeys (including apprentice Jockeys) engaged to compete at the race meeting;
- Licensed trainers with runners engaged at the race meeting;
- Registered stable staff of the trainers with runners engaged at the race meeting (trainers to minimise the number of stable staff in attendance);
- QRIC stewards, veterinarians and swab officials (and any other QRIC approved raceday officials);
- Barrier attendants, starters and essential track staff;
- Clerks of the Course;
- Judges (including assistant judges where applicable) and photo finish operators;
- Scales / weighing room staff and jockeys’ (room) attendants;
- Raceday Event Staff;
- Security / gate attendants including horse stalls, mounting yard and float carpark;
- Ambulance services and/or club doctor;
- Farriers and other essential service providers approved by RQ and the race club;

- Broadcast service providers (SKY Racing, Channel 7, Radio TAB, PSP, On the Bit [Non-TAB]) including race callers;
- Restricted core racing media as approved by RQ and the race club; and
- Restricted operational Race Club management and RQ management.

In addition to those persons detailed above, a racing club may grant Registered Owners who have a runner engaged at the race meeting access to the Core Racing Area (or parts thereof). The number of Owners granted access will be determined by the racing club based on the requirements of the Industry COVID Safe Plan being met.

Temperature testing on arrival

Temperature testing of Essential Racing Personnel on arrival at race meetings has been discontinued.

Notwithstanding the above, Essential Racing Personnel are advised not to enter a racing venue if they are feeling unwell, have been in close contact with a known active case of COVID-19, have any COVID-19 symptoms, have travelled from overseas (except as provided for persons from New Zealand on quarantine-free flights), or been to a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days or since the start date identified for the COVID-19 hotspot (whichever is shorter).

Temperature testing of Essential Racing Personnel may be reintroduced by RQ in the future dependant on any direction or advice of the Chief Health Officer or the Queensland Government. RQ will reassess these protocols at that time if those circumstances arise.

Food and beverage service

For any food and beverage services provided to Essential Racing Personnel within the Core Racing Area, it is the racing club's responsibility to ensure appropriate protocols are in place with respect to food service as set out in the Industry COVID Safe Plan.

Separation and hygiene

Racing clubs are required to implement satisfactory measures to ensure the principles of the directions issued by the relevant authorities regarding space and distancing are adhered to.

This includes not exceeding the maximum occupancy density of one person per two square metres, avoiding physical contact, as well as regular handwashing, sanitisation and hygiene processes.

Racing clubs should display in areas used by essential racing personnel relevant information sheets about COVID-19 and ways to reduce the spread of the virus.

Stewards

Racing clubs should liaise with QRIC to understand QRIC's resource levels to be in operation at the race meeting and ensure that a room of sufficient size to meet the spacing requirements is available for use.

QRIC will need to be mindful of the number of persons (i.e., jockeys, trainers etc) that then enter the stewards' room at any one time to ensure spacing requirements are adhered to.

Jockeys

Racing clubs should ensure that the rooms available for both female and male jockeys are of sufficient size to meet the spacing requirements. Where required, overflow or alternate rooms should be made available.

Racing clubs should ensure that access to the jockeys' rooms is limited as much as possible in terms of the number of jockeys' room attendants (and scales/weighing room staff).

Due consideration must be given to the operations of the scales area for weigh-out and weigh-in processes, including interaction with clerks of scales and trainers for collection of saddles, to ensure that requirements of physical distancing and spacing are adhered to. This also includes satisfactory measures to clean and/or disinfect any pieces of equipment or gear that become soiled (e.g., gear that is used in a race or equipment that may be touched by a person etc).

Trainers/stable staff

Physical distancing measures of 1.5 metres distancing should be adhered to the extent possible in the performance of work functions/duties (i.e., saddling horses etc.). Where trainers/stable staff are required to pass or interact with others, racing clubs should endeavour to allow for separation of 1.5 metres on any pathways or thoroughfares.

Barrier staff

In the performance of their work functions/duties, barrier staff should adhere to the 1.5 metres physical distancing requirements to the extent possible. Racing clubs should ensure that barrier staff are provided with, and encouraged to use, appropriate products for handwashing, sanitisation and hygiene purposes.

Other officials

Racing clubs should ensure that all other officials are able to perform their work functions/duties whilst adhering to the 1.5 metres physical distancing or one person per two square metres space requirements, as applicable.

Parade ring

To limit the number of people in the parade ring for each race, access is restricted to:

- The person leading each horse (the registered stable staff or trainer if applicable);
- The jockey or apprentice jockey riding each horse;
- The Trainer or registered stable representative;
- QRIC stewards and race club official/s; and
- Clerks of the Course.

Race clubs are to ensure that an area is available outside the perimeter of the parade ring to enable trainers, owners and jockeys to interact pre- and post-race, allowing for the 1.5 metre physical distancing or one person per two square metres requirement to be adhered to.

Training venues and stables

Access to all training venues and stables in Queensland during designated trackwork hours is restricted to licensed persons engaged in the training of licensed racing animals, RQ and QRIC officials, race club staff as required, essential personnel (e.g., Vets, Farriers, Medical Officers etc.) and registered owners. Trainers shall assume responsibility for contact tracing of their registered owners.

Members of the public (i.e., non-licensed or non-registered parties) may:

- Visit stables to meet a Trainer (outside of designated trackwork hours if the stables are oncourse at a licensing racing venue) and, if doing so, the Trainer shall assume responsibility for contact tracing; and
- Visit a racing/training venue to watch a trial, jump out or trackwork, in which case they must be positioned in an area designated by the racing club (e.g., section of a grandstand) to enable the racing club to facilitate contact tracing of those members of the public.

Animal care providers

Persons whose primary business is the provision of key animal husbandry and care services (veterinarians, farriers, chiropractors) are permitted to continue to operate and service clients.

RQ recommends these services should be provided:

- To adhere to the strict bio-security requirements of Federal and State Governments, including physical distancing and hygiene; and
- Trainers are required to keep a logbook to record all visits to stables by animal care providers.