

# COVID-19 RACING CODE PROTOCOLS HARNESS



## EFFECTIVE JULY 30, 2021

1. The objectives of Racing Queensland's COVID-19 Racing Code Protocols are to:
  - (a) Protect racing industry stakeholders (e.g., licensed persons, officials etc), licensed racing venues and training centres from the potential spread of COVID-19; and
  - (b) Continue to give guidance and structure to the core racing operations of a race meeting.
2. Racing clubs are required to conduct race meetings in accordance with the [COVID Safe Checklist for Restricted Businesses | Queensland Government \(covid19.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au). This Checklist applies across the whole venue.
3. Racing clubs are also required to meet the requirements of the Racing Code Protocols (as well as any Addendum to the Protocols), and any additional instruction or direction provided by RQ, and any requirements of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) that may be imposed at a race meeting.
4. The Racing Code Protocols provide additional information and guidance/requirements for the Core Racing Areas and core racing operations of the race meeting, and for Essential Racing Personnel (including visiting participants from interstate and overseas).

### Restriction of entry to Queensland / Declarations / Travel Categories

5. 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). Every person must complete a declaration to enter Queensland from anywhere in Australia or New Zealand. This includes Queensland residents.
6. You must complete the right declaration for your situation before you travel to enter Queensland. When you complete the declaration, you will be asked where you have been in the past 14 days. If your conditions change or you need to update your travel details prior to your arrival in Queensland, you'll need to complete a new declaration with updated details.
7. The Queensland Government has moved to a travel category system that allows areas across Australia and New Zealand to be designated as a green, orange or red category according to their risk level. There is also a blue designation for the New South Wales border zone. Full details via [Travelling to Queensland | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au)
8. **Green: No Restrictions.** If you have not been in a COVID-19 hotspot or interstate exposure venue or have been only in a safe travel zone country, you should be eligible for a green declaration. You must complete a [Queensland Entry Pass](#).
9. **Orange: Interstate exposure venues.** If you are travelling from an orange zone, it means you may have been to an [interstate exposure venue](#) in another Australian state or territory. If you have been to an interstate exposure venue at the relevant time you



will have to quarantine on arrival into Queensland as per the directions on your declaration. You must complete a [Queensland Entry Pass](#).

10. **Red: COVID-19 hotspots.** If you have been to a [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, unless you are a returning Queensland resident, a new resident relocating, or for a limited range of essential purposes. If you are allowed to enter Queensland, you must complete 14 days mandatory quarantine. Depending on which State/COVID-19 hotspot you are entering from, this will either be in government arranged accommodation, or you may be able to home quarantine subject to certain requirements. You must complete the [Queensland Entry Pass](#).
11. **Blue: NSW border zone.** NSW border zone residents can only cross the border for a permitted purpose, including work. Likewise, Queensland residents can only enter the NSW border zone for a permitted purpose. You must complete a [Queensland Entry Pass](#) Border Zone Travel (X Pass).

You are not permitted to have been south outside of the NSW border zone in the 14 days prior to entry into Queensland. If a person travels south outside of the NSW border zone and needs to enter, or return to, Queensland within the 14 days, they will be required to go into hotel quarantine.

### Current COVID-19 Hotspots

12. The Queensland Government may, from time to time, identify and declare certain areas to be declared COVID-19 hotspots. Refer to the [COVID-19 hotspot](#) link for detailed information of all current hotspots declared by the Queensland Government.
13. As stated above, generally, 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), you will not be allowed to enter Queensland, unless you are a returning Queensland resident, a new resident relocating, or if you are required to enter for a limited range of essential purposes.
14. The Queensland Government may also, in certain circumstances, amend or backdate the identified start date of a declared COVID-19 hotspot. In these circumstances:
  - (a) the Government may order that persons must follow the requirements of the Interstate Places of Concern (stay at home in Queensland) Direction, meaning anyone already in Queensland who has been in the declared COVID-19 hotspot since the amended or backdated identified COVID-19 hotspot start date must follow the stay-at-home requirements for a period of 14 days since leaving the area; and
  - (b) RQ may order that 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.

### Exposure Venues / Contract Tracing Alerts

15. 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.
16. You must monitor details of the [interstate exposure venues on the Queensland Health website](#) daily (at least once every 24 hours) from the time you complete a declaration and for 14 days after arriving into Queensland.
17. If you have been to any of the exposure venues at the relevant exposure times you must:
  - (a) immediately travel by private transport directly to your home or accommodation and quarantine;



- (b) [get tested](#) at your earliest opportunity (wear a mask while you are out getting tested);
  - (c) complete the online contact 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) (after you complete the contact tracing form you will be contacted by Queensland Health).
18. 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.
19. Check the interstate/overseas Government websites for the most current list of exposure venues in their respective jurisdictions:
- (a) [ACT Government website](#)
  - (b) [NSW Government website](#)
  - (c) [Northern Territory Government website](#)
  - (d) [South Australia Government website](#)
  - (e) [Victoria Government website](#)
  - (f) [Western Australia Government website](#)
  - (g) [New Zealand Ministry of Health website](#)
  - (h) 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.

#### COVID-19 Test

20. Any person (including trainers, jockeys, drivers, stable hands, officials and service providers) who enters Queensland and develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days after arrival, must present for a COVID-19 test and not attend a Queensland licensed racing or training venue until having received and provided evidence of a negative result to RQ.
21. Further to the above, RQ may require any person (either visiting or local participants) to undergo a COVID-19 test and require that they not attend a Queensland licensed racing or training venue until having received and provided evidence of a negative result to RQ.

#### Government Information / Links

22. 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.

[Border Restrictions Direction \(No. 28\) | Queensland Health](#)

[Declared Hotspots Direction | Queensland Health](#)

[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 \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[Entry to Queensland | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)



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

23. 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 by Approved Float Companies only**

24. Where Government regulations allow, standardbred horses will be permitted to travel to Queensland from declared COVID-19 hotspots, 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'.
25. An 'Approved Float Company' is any float company which is registered as a transport company, and which has sought and been granted approval by Racing Queensland to transport racing standardbred horses to Queensland from inter-state.
26. For horses currently trained by trainers in a declared COVID-19 hotspot, the trainer must make arrangements (notified and approved by the QRIC Stewards) for a designated caretaker trainer within Queensland. This arrangement must be made and notified to QRIC prior to transport departure.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. Prior to, and upon completion of, the journey the Approved Float Company must ensure the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 being spread on future journeys.
31. Transport (freight) drivers undertaking travel from a declared COVID-19 hotspot should refer to the relevant Queensland Government protocol and other guidance (QLD Freight Protocol: [Operational protocol for freight movements entering Queensland | Queensland Health](#)). In addition to the requirement to have the relevant border declaration pass, this protocol:
- Introduces mandatory surveillance testing requirements for freight and logistics operators.
  - Requires that freight and logistics operators who have been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days must have evidence of a negative test result within the last 7 days to enter Queensland. These operators must then maintain a rolling 7-day testing cycle until 14-days have passed since they have been in a COVID-19 hotspot.
  - Requires that freight and logistics operators who have left the confines of their vehicle in an affected area (as defined in the QLD Freight Protocol), to have undertaken a COVID-19 test in the 72 hours prior to entering Queensland, and



to have evidence of a negative test result within the last 7 days to enter Queensland. These operators must then maintain a rolling 3-day testing cycle until they leave Queensland or 14-days have passed since they have been in an affected area, whichever is shorter.

#### **Horse transportation from the NSW border zone**

32. Horses being transported from the NSW border zone to Queensland race meetings can travel and complete their journey as normal in line with the required arrival times oncourse as stipulated by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.
33. The person transporting and anyone accompanying the horse/s from the NSW border zone to Queensland race meetings must ensure they have the appropriate Queensland Government border zone pass or border declaration pass. This also applies to Queensland residents returning with horse/s after competing at race meetings in the NSW border zone.

#### **Attendance – Core Racing Area Access**

34. To help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, access to the Core Racing Area is strictly restricted to Essential Racing Personnel, which includes:
  - (a) Licensed drivers engaged to compete at the meeting;
  - (b) Licensed trainers with runners engaged at the meeting;
  - (c) Licenced stable hands working for trainers engaged at the meeting (trainers to minimise the number of stable staff in attendance);
  - (d) QRIC stewards and veterinarians;
  - (e) Barrier attendants, starters, mobile barrier drivers and essential track maintenance staff;
  - (f) Clerks of the Course;
  - (g) Judges and photo finish operators;
  - (h) Race meeting event staff including raceday office secretary and security/gate attendants;
  - (i) Ambulance services;
  - (j) Farriers and other essential service providers approved by Racing Queensland and the race club such as course electrician;
  - (k) Broadcast services providers (SKY Racing & PSP) including race caller;
  - (l) RQ accredited media as approved by Racing Queensland and the race club including course photographer; and
  - (m) Restricted operational race club management and Racing Queensland management.
  - (n) Pony Trot participants and officials from the Queensland Junior Harness Racing Association and the Queensland Mini Trotting Sporting Association.
35. 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 any occupant density requirements of the COVID Safe Checklist. Owners are not to enter the racecourse via the Core Racing Area (where Essential Racing Personnel enter the racecourse). Owners must enter via the Patron entry point.
36. Pony Trot participants and officials are permitted to access the Core Racing Area solely for the purpose of Pony Trot competition which has been approved by Racing Queensland and the Race Club. A separate stabling area will be made available to minimise contact between Pony Trot participants (and officials) and other Essential





Racing Personnel. A register of Pony Trot participants and officials in attendance will need to be provided to the Race Club. Children will not be granted access (unless licenced or competing in an approved Pony Trot competition).

#### **Temperature testing on arrival**

37. RQ may require Essential Racing Personnel to undergo temperature testing on arrival at race meetings. Any decision in this regard will be made based on any current direction or advice of the Chief Health Officer or the Queensland Government.
38. 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).

#### **Participant sign-in**

39. RQ has implemented new sign-in practices at all harness racing meetings in Queensland during COVID-19.
40. Trainers and drivers will need to present themselves to the Acceptance Office at the host racing club and advise the club staff member which horses have arrived on course and the names of their stable hands in attendance. The club staff member will initial the sign-in sheet and enter a check-in time and check-out time. This will avoid multiple people using the same pen and touching the same sign-in sheets.
41. A similar practice will be adopted when purchasing molasses, with the club staff member signing the molasses sheet.

#### **Food and beverage service**

42. 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 provided in the COVID Safe Checklist, the Guidance documents to the Checklist published by the Government, or any other Government restrictions in place from time to time.

#### **Separation and hygiene**

43. 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 any specified maximum occupancy density rules in place, maintaining physical distancing, avoiding physical contact, as well as regular handwashing, sanitisation and hygiene processes.
44. 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.
45. Personal actions for participants to assist with the community obligation to uphold physical distancing include:
  - (a) Participants to leave immediately after their racing commitments once cleared by stewards;
  - (b) Covering your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue and disposing of tissues properly;
  - (c) Washing your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitisers, including before and after eating, after going to the toilet, and after using shared equipment;
  - (d) Cleaning and sanitising frequently used objects such as mobiles, keys and wallets;



- (e) Avoiding large public gatherings if they are not essential;
- (f) Keeping a distance of 1.5 metres between you and other people whenever possible;
- (g) Minimising physical contact, especially with people at higher risk such as older people and people with existing health conditions;
- (h) Supporting physical distancing enhancements introduced by QRIC, RQ, and Club officials at race meetings; and
- (i) Not attending race venues if feeling unwell.

**Check In Qld app – training venues, trackwork/trials, oncourse stables**

- 46. As race clubs operate under the COVID Safe Checklist for Restricted Businesses, it is a requirement for the race club to collect and store contact information about all guests, patrons and staff at the time of entry, using the Check In Qld app. This includes attendance at any part of the venue at any time of the day (e.g., training areas and oncourse stables for trackwork and trials), and for all persons including licensed participants, RQ and QRIC officials, club staff, owners and members of the public.
- 47. Race clubs are to ensure that sufficient Check In Qld app options/places exist at the entrance to the venue, and also in and around the tie-up stall areas for persons who are unable to stop at the entrance to check-in (e.g., persons leading horses or carrying large amounts of racing gear etc.).
- 48. Trainers are encouraged to assist by ensuring that all their staff, owners or other service providers (e.g., farriers, vets etc.) are checked-in on arrival.