

Best Practices for the Horse Industry & Equestrian Community
Trails

This Best Practices document for the Horse Industry and Equestrian Community covers the best practices for Trail Riding and the use of Maryland's Trail System during the COVID-19 "Maryland Strong - Roadmap to Recovery" Phases. All segments of the horse industry and equestrian community should abide by all the State's Mandated Guidelines at each Phase. All current mandates must be followed during each stage, i.e. masks must be worn whenever required, and social distancing requirements and limitations on the size of gatherings must be observed.

Below are suggested Best Practices each sector can consider as they plan for reopening and take steps to help the public, themselves, and staff stay as safe as possible. We are fully aware that types of barn operations, locations and types of facilities, and other regional differences will influence both the practicality and necessity of implementing these Best Practices for our Maryland stables. Organizers are strongly encouraged to abide by guidelines provided by local governing entities and national organizations such as the United States Equestrian Federation in implementing chosen Best Practices. We encourage stable owners and managers to use this list as a guide, and to determine additional Best Practices specific to their circumstances.

Horse Industry Trails Best Practices:

Trails –

Suggestions for Trails

Trails Riders and organizations may choose to adopt more restrictive procedures than those set forth here.

1. Access should not be allowed to anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19, or anyone who has been exposed to a person with symptoms within the self-quarantine period.
2. Abide by what trails are open for trail riding at each stage.
3. Trail riders shall not ride in groups of more than 10 people, or what the state guideline currently mandates.
4. If trail riding with others, each rider shall limit contact to their own horse, tack and equipment.
5. It is the responsibility of riders to bring their own sanitizing supplies.
6. If trailering to a park or other location to ride, horse owners may share trailers, but each owner must exclusively handle his/her own horse, tack and equipment. No one may accompany the towing vehicle driver, unless they are members of the same household. Others must drive separately.
7. Trail riders shall maintain social distancing guidelines while riding, whether riding single file or abreast.
8. When passing others on the trails, riders shall adhere to social distancing guidelines.
9. Trail riders should avoid narrow trails where it is not possible to pass other users without maintaining social distancing guidelines.
10. Trail riders shall not use any state park facilities, including portable toilets, picnic areas, etc., except parking. [Do we want to delete this one? I think facilities are now open.]