

## **Biosecurity for Equine Service Providers**

*“Equine service providers” are individuals such as vets, farriers and body workers who provide maintenance and care beyond the day-to-day necessities for horses. They often offer their services at multiple facilities and because of this, extra biosecurity measures should be taken to lower the risk of transmission.*

### **Overall Best Practices**

- Use electronic payment and booking
- Have discussions by phone, email or text whenever possible
  - o If you must have an in-person conversation or be present for the appointment, ensure that physical distancing is maintained (2m apart) and face masks or coverings are worn
- The horse’s owner or a barn staff member should retrieve the horse and have them standing tied and ready for the service provider once they arrive
- Service providers should provide and use their own equipment
  - o This includes lead ropes and halters if possible
- Confirm the work area needed ahead of time and leave all doors surrounding the work area open (if it is safe to do so)
- Service providers should disinfect any barn surfaces or equipment they come into contact with (door handles, walls, cross tie clips, etc.)
  - o Service providers can provide their own disinfectant or use one provided by the facility, as long as it has been approved by the Government of Canada for use against COVID-19 (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html#tbl1>)
- Service providers should wash or sanitize their hands between each horse they work with
- Service providers should sanitize their shoes and change their clothes between facilities to minimize risk of spread

### **Vet Visits**

- Understand that your vet may refuse to see your horse if it is not an emergency
- Vaccines have been deemed an essential service, and vets will be coming to farms this spring to administer them. To reduce the amount of trips your vet must make to your barn, have them vaccinate most if not all horses in one visit
- Avoid touching areas the vet worked on after their visit. Wash these areas if possible (do not wash an open or stitched wound, etc.)

### ***Farrier Visits***

- For routine, non-emergency cases, avoid bringing the farrier out to trim just one or two horses. Each visit, try to have as many horses seen to as possible to minimize the amount of trips the farrier has to make to your property
- Wash your horse's legs and hooves before touching them after your farrier's visit

### ***Body worker (Massage Therapists/Chiropractors) Visits***

- The body worker needs some way of safely handling halters/lead ropes during appointments. If they do not provide their own halter and/or lead rope, be sure to sanitize yours thoroughly after the appointment
- Body workers should wear face masks and gloves during the appointment to prevent contamination of the horse for the people who handle it after appointment
  - o If gloves are not an option, the bodyworker should wash their hands immediately before and after touching the horse during an appointment