

March 12, 2020

WELCA RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The health, safety and well-being of everyone associated with Whitemud Equine Learning Centre Association and Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association is our primary concern. With growing global concerns around COVID-19 (“coronavirus”), we want you to know that we are following the lead of public health authorities and to provide you with information on our response to date.

First and foremost, we want to assure you that we are taking all appropriate measures to ensure our facility is safe and that we have existing plans and protocols in place to ensure it stays that way. While Alberta Health Services has assessed the current public health risk as low for coronavirus, we do have riders who are immune compromised and therefore their risk is higher. We continue to monitor developments and adapt our policies as needed.

We have implemented additional measures to ensure your safety as well as the safety of our team, including:

- Introducing enhanced cleaning protocols in the riding arena, with particular focus on high traffic and high contact areas. Coronaviruses are easily eliminated by routine surface cleaning and the cleaning product we use, called Virkon™, is an industrial-grade cleaner and disinfectant virucide.
- Increasing communications and reminders with our visitors, partners and employees on important health and safety measures

To protect yourself and others, we ask that if you are sick you stay away from the barn. And, if you have travelled out of the country recently to call 8-1-1 health link before coming to the barn to confirm whether or not you need to be tested or self-isolate.

COVID-19 is a new variety of coronavirus that causes respiratory disease in humans. ***It has not been established whether it can infect other species.*** Coronavirus in horses is a disease affecting the intestinal tract in horses and it is not related to the COVID-19 strain.

Again, we continue to monitor this situation closely and will provide ongoing updates as needed. We also encourage our guests to stay up-to-date through the website: alberta.ca/covid19

