



Great *and* Small

COVID-19  
ACTION PLAN

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## **Great and Small COVID-19 Action Plan**

### **Re-Opening Procedures and Safety Precautions**

**Update 1/29/21 Great and Small is currently in Phase 2, and plans for Phase 3**

**Reopening will begin on March 8, 2021 – which includes independent riders, riders with horse leaders, and riders with limited sidewalker support. Questions? Email [info@greatandsmallride.org](mailto:info@greatandsmallride.org)**

**\*\*Policies and procedures are subject to change as Great and Small opens for different phases and according to CDC and State of Maryland guidelines. Please check back for the most up to date information.\*\***

At Great and Small, there is nothing more important than the health and well-being of our participants, volunteers, and community. As COVID-19 impacts our daily lives, we want to assure you that we remain committed to providing the high-quality and compassionate care you have come to expect from the Great and Small staff and program.

We are using a combination of physical distancing, cleaning, and sanitizing practices in line with Maryland state and CDC recommended guidelines in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at our center. However, it should be noted that no mitigation step will reduce the risk completely. Our processes address minimizing exposure to our participants, volunteers, and staff, as well as a plan to mitigate further risk if exposure occurs.

Please review our Mitigation Measures for more detailed information on the procedures Great and Small has put into place and how you will be asked to help keep our participants, staff, and volunteers healthy and safe.

Prior to returning to Great and Small for participation, a Waiver of Liability Relating to COVID-19 and Infectious Diseases must be signed by all volunteers and clients.

Revised Sick Policy for ALL Participants and Volunteers:

All participants and volunteers MUST cancel their participation in Great and Small activities if:

- You have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever of 100.4F or greater in the past 3 days, cough, sneezing, sore throat, headache, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing) or have been in close contact with someone who has symptoms. You must be symptom free for 14 days before requesting to return to Great and Small activities.
- You know you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has been exposed.
- If you work directly with coronavirus patients in a healthcare facility that is treating COVID-19 patients, please do not come to Great and Small until your

facility is no longer treating coronavirus patients and you've been symptom free for 14 days after the last patient was treated.

If you have been to Great and Small and become sick with COVID-19 or think you might have been exposed or have COVID-19, please contact us immediately by calling (301) 349-0075. We are required by Maryland National-Capital Parks and Planning (MNCPP) to notify the health department of any cases of COVID-19 and will proceed with our contingency plan to notify others who may have been exposed.

Great and Small will regularly monitor national and local conditions and immediately take steps to limit and mitigate any rebounds or outbreaks in accordance with Maryland guidance. We reserve the right to restart a phase or return to an earlier phase as needed.

These are unprecedeted times, and the well-being and safety of everyone is our top priority. As we take these first steps forward, we appreciate your compliance to help participants get safely back in the saddle!

## Phases

In line with CDC and Maryland recommended guidelines, we have initiated a phased approach to re-opening our center in the safest manner possible, with clearly outlined processes for staff, volunteers, and participants to help minimize exposure and maximize safety. Below is an overview of the previous, current, and future phases for volunteers and programming:

### Phase 1 – Began June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Site Open	<p>Participants enter/exit through arena only, not lounge.</p> <p>Limited number of volunteers in barn only during scheduled hours.</p> <p>Lounge bathroom for participants only. Masks must be worn inside lounge.</p> <p>All staff and volunteers must carry and wear masks and follow cleaning and sanitation practices as outlined in procedures.</p>
Volunteers	<p>Limited number of volunteers assisting staff with schooling horses and facility needs.</p> <p>Volunteers who do not have permission to be in the barn may use the lounge for restroom only.</p> <p>No volunteer contact with participants.</p>
Programming	<p>Low risk, independent riders</p> <p>Volunteer lessons</p> <p>Independent unmounted/EAL and EFP participants</p> <p>Groundwork and Grooming Lessons may be available for those who are interested, more details to come.</p> <p>*Participation in Groundwork and Grooming sessions depends upon risk factors noted on assessment. Masks will be worn by everyone.</p>

## **Phase 2 Began September 2nd**

Site Open	Participants enter/exit through arena only, not lounge. Limited number of volunteers in barn only during scheduled hours. Lounge bathroom for participants only. Masks must be worn.
Volunteers	Limited number of volunteers assisting staff with schooling horses and facility needs. Horse leaders and handlers assisting in therapeutic riding lessons.
Programming	Limited Therapeutic Riding classes will be available for participants who utilize a horse leader ONLY. *Participation in Groundwork and Grooming sessions depends upon risk factors noted on assessment. Masks will be worn by everyone.

## **Phase 3 – Began March 8th, 2021**

Site Open	Participants enter/exit through arena only, not lounge. Limited number of volunteers in barn only during scheduled hours. Lounge bathroom for participants only. Masks must be worn.
Volunteers	Limited number of volunteers assisting staff with schooling horses and facility needs. Horse leaders and handlers assisting in therapeutic riding lessons. Side walkers floating (no physical support at walk being provided).
Programming	Equine Assisted Learning Sessions with community partners. Limited Therapeutic Riding classes will be available. Participants who utilize a floating side walker (no physical support at the walk being provided) or participants whose parent or guardian has agreed to sidewalk with them. *Participation in Groundwork and Grooming sessions depends upon risk factors noted on assessment. Masks will be worn by everyone.

## **Phase 4 – Begins June 21st, 2021**

Site Open	<p>Participants enter/exit through arena only, not lounge.</p> <p>Limited number of volunteers in barn only during scheduled hours. Lounge bathroom for participants only. Masks must be worn.</p>
Volunteers	<p>Limited number of volunteers assisting staff with schooling horses and facility needs.</p> <p>Horse leaders and handlers assisting in therapeutic riding lessons. Side walkers available to float and provide physical support at the walk.</p>
Programming	<p>Equine Assisted Learning Sessions with community partners.</p> <p>Weekly Therapeutic Riding lessons with restrictions according to current recommended guidelines. Regular sanitizing measures being taken.</p> <p>*Participation in Groundwork and Grooming sessions depends upon risk factors noted on assessment. Masks will be worn by everyone.</p>

## Mitigation Measures for Phases 1 and 2

*Mitigation measures will be reevaluated as needed and amended through each re-opening phase.*

### Facility

Facility	
Frequent cleaning and/or Sanitization	All contact points will be cleaned and sanitized during and after each barn shift (AM and PM). Riding equipment and our entry and arena gates will be cleaned after EVERY participant lesson.
Cleaning Supplies	Supplies will be made abundantly available to staff, volunteers, and clients, and placed around the farm for easy accessibility.
Sanitizing/Handwashing Stations	Staff, volunteers, and clients will be required to sanitize/wash their hands with soap and water upon arrival and departure. There will be sanitizing stations at entry points and abundant handwashing supplies available for use in bathrooms. Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available at the lounge door, the arena door, and the barn entry door.
Signage	Signs will be posted around the property with best practices and procedural reminders.
Restroom	Restroom will be well-stocked with soap, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant spray bottles. Instructions will be posted for proper sanitation before and after each use.
Maximum Capacity	No more than ten (10) people are allowed in activity areas at one time. This includes staff, volunteers, and clients. Family members and caretakers must stay in cars or bring their own seating if they would like to sit by the inside or outside arenas and watch and must maintain Maryland's 6-foot social distancing guidelines.
Social Distancing	All staff, volunteers, and clients must maintain six feet (6') social distancing from others to the best of their ability.
Property Limitations	The upstairs office and Feed Room are for STAFF ONLY. Our gazebo and picnic tables will be off limits.

**Sanitizing/  
Handwashing Stations**

Staff, volunteers, and clients will be required to sanitize/wash their hands with soap and water upon arrival and departure. There will be sanitizing stations at entry points and abundant handwashing supplies available for use in bathrooms. Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available at the lounge door, the arena door, and the barn entry door.

## **Program and Staff**

<b>Program and Staff</b>	
Training	Staff will attend professionally-led training on proper health protocol and practice these new procedures prior to re-opening.
Self-Health Check	Staff will perform self-health checks before coming, including temperature reading.
Wash Stations	Staff will be required to wash their hands with soap and water upon arrival and departure and in-between client sessions.
Modified Schedule	Participants and volunteers will be scheduled with abundant time in-between sessions for cleaning of equipment and to ensure no overlapping of arrivals.

## **Volunteers**

Training	Volunteers will be required to watch a video outlining new procedures and participate in on-line re-orientation led by Great and Small staff.
Self-Health Check	Volunteers will be asked to perform self-health checks before coming, including temperature reading.
Check-in	Volunteers will be required to check-in upon arrival with either the Volunteer Manager, Coordinator, or designated check-in volunteer to sign in. Volunteers will be asked to give current self-health check updates upon arrival.
Equipment	Volunteers are required to bring their own mask and to have it on their person at all times, as well as wear it in the presence of others. Gloves are not recommended due to the need to be washed before use to limit contamination. Volunteers may purchase and utilize their own lead ropes if desired.
Wash Stations	Volunteers will be required to sanitize/wash their hands with soap and water upon arrival and before departure, and in-between client sessions. Hand sanitizer will be available, but is ineffective when hands are covered in dirt, horsehair, or has been used more than 4-5 times without handwashing.
Modified Duties	Volunteer duties will be modified to accommodate safety and social distancing guidelines per phased opening.

## Participants and Community

Participants and Community	
Client Eligibility – Mounted Sessions	Clients eligible to participate in mounted sessions are those who ride independently without leader or sidewalkers.
Client Eligibility – Unmounted Sessions	Clients eligible to participate in equine-assisted learning (EAL) unmounted sessions are those who are able to participate without physical assistance and are able to social distance appropriately.
Client Eligibility	Clients must be able to follow all Great and Small policies and protocols. Great and Small will not be re-evaluating participant support needs at this time. Participant eligibility will be based on their needs as of their last session. Eligibility for all types of programming are the same.
Self-Health Check	Participants/their parents will be asked to perform self-health checks before coming, including temperature reading. Instructor will request self-health check information before lesson start.
Sick Policy	During initial re-opening phases, Great and Small has waived the no make-up policy for sick cancellations. Clients will receive credits for sessions cancelled due to sickness (with notice prior to session).
Session Numbers	Riding sessions will be private or household groups of up to 2 persons. Equine-assisted learning and unmounted sessions will be private.
Wash Stations	Participants will be required to sanitize/wash their hands with soap and water upon arrival and departure. Hand sanitizer will be available, but is ineffective when hands are covered in dirt, horsehair, or has been used more than 4-5 times without handwashing.
Training	Participants will be required to watch a video outlining new procedures before returning to activities for the first time.

Personal Protection Equipment	Participants will be required to wear a mask upon arrival and during sessions unless otherwise instructed by staff. Gloves are not recommended due to the need to be washed before use to limit contamination.
Helmets	Participants should bring their own helmet. If you need a Great and Small helmet we will provide one that will be tagged with your name and cleaned after use. Great and Small helmets will only be used once per day.
Boots	Participants will bring their own boots. No boots will be available for participant use.
Reins	Great and Small will use washable reins when possible. Clients can purchase and bring their own reins if desired.
Family Members	Family members and caretakers must stay in cars or bring their own seating if they would like to watch and must maintain Maryland's 6-foot social distancing guidelines. Barn is off limits to family members.

## **Exposure Plan**

COVID-19 Exposure	If you have visited Great and Small and are sick with COVID-19, or think you might have been exposed to or have COVID-19, please contact Great and Small right away by calling 301-349-0075. You will receive a response/call back from a Great and Small Staff Member as soon as possible. Please follow the CDC for health guidance.
COVID-19 Case Reported	If COVID-19 exposure has been identified, Great and Small will follow written policies and procedures with guidance from the CDC's recommended precautions which include but are not limited to isolation requirements, increased housekeeping measures, and facility closure. Any staff, participant, or volunteer that may have been exposed will be notified immediately by Great and Small staff.