

24 March 2020

Dear Members

In an effort to minimize the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a national lockdown and several new measures to prevent the spread of the covid-19 virus, including movement regulations.

As of this Thursday, 26 March 2020, at 12 pm (midnight), lockdown measures come into effect to minimize contacts and travel to the minimum.

The SAEF therefore confirms the following that must be adhered to concerning equestrian facility operations, consistent with the recommendations of the Department of Health..

It is imperative that all facilities that host equestrian-related activities, including but not limited to stable yards, riding schools, livery and lessons, **cease public-facing and non-essential activities** from midnight 26 March 2020 until midnight 16 April 2020.

The South African Government have publicly and repeatedly communicated that everyone in the country should be practicing social distancing to reduce their exposure to other people and Mr Ramaphosa declared that “**all South Africans should stay home.**”

Therefore, the SAEF confirms that facilities that are livery yards, only allow staff needed to take care of horses in their care. This includes stable yard owners, stable managers and grooms. These individuals/staff are to continue operating to ensure the feeding, care and welfare of these horses.

It is important to take note that equine-related essential services e.g. veterinarians and farriers, **may only be used in emergencies** in order to secure the well-being of your horses.

Non-essential personnel, including riders, instructors, friends, family, the public, and or owners **who are not providing equine-related care are not allowed** on the said premises.

CONSTITUENT MEMBERS: All Discipline Associations, Associate Members and Athlete's Commission & Provincial Federations

President: Adv Willem Edeling
Vice President: Hannes van Aswegen
Secretary General: Wessel Strauss
Treasurer: Neil Smith
Athletes' Rep: Nicola Sime-Riley

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Additionally, the SAEF recommends the following as best practices:

- Adhere to the lockdown regulations as announced by the SA President on 23 March 2020;
- Adhere to social distancing and hygiene as recommended by the Department of Health;
- Individuals experiencing symptoms of illness must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days as per guidelines the Department of Health;
- The level of risk involved in equestrian sport is high; in order to alleviate pressure on an already overburdened healthcare system during this pandemic, precautions to reduce the risk of accidents should be taken;

The SAEF empathises with the equestrian community, all those who are so deeply affected by this situation and are fully aware of the severe financial implications of the suspension of business operations. But now we need to prioritise the health and safety of our community above all else.

The SAEF is making every effort to ensure continuous, thorough and up-to-date communication concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. Our updates on COVID-19 can be found on our website [here](#) , as well as on our Facebook page [here](#), as well as NSAEF Newsflashes that will be sent out from time to time.

Thank you for your cooperation and engagement as we work diligently to keep our community safe and informed. We are counting on each and every member of the South African equestrian community to make responsible decisions based on the information available.

Stay safe.

Regards



Wessel Strauss

SAEF – Secretary General

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