

At the very heart of Hope Springs are our dedicated staff, instructors, volunteers and you, our valued riders. We are grateful for your continued loyalty and support during this unprecedented time, and we look forward to welcoming you back as soon as we are able.

We continue to plan for our eventual reopening, but we aren't doing it all at once. We will reopen in stages, according to state and local regulations, and when we are confident that we have all the appropriate safety precautions in place. The health and safety of our staff, riders, and neighbors remain our highest priority, so we are proceeding in a slow and cautious way. We must also have the appropriate cleaning supplies on hand, and availability of those supplies remains a challenge.

Here are some ways we are preparing for your return:

- 1) Face masks will be required for all people coming on to the property, including those bringing riders. Riders will not be permitted to ride without a mask. No exceptions. We will not provide masks. Riders are welcome to wear their own gloves if desired. Rider/family **MUST** take used masks and gloves with them. They may **NOT** be thrown away on the barn property.
- 2) Temperature will be taken for all riders and our staff upon arrival. Temperature must be below 100 for the lesson to take place.
- 3) We will practice social distancing at all times, except when brief contact is absolutely necessary for the physical safety of the student.
- 4) If student or parent/caregiver bringing the student is feeling unwell, or if any of those parties have been diagnosed with an active COVID infection or been exposed in the last 14 days, **STAY HOME!**
- 5) People bringing riders are required to remain on the property during the lesson.
- 6) The only people permitted in the barn will be instructors and staff. They will groom and tack the horse and bring it out for the rider to mount. While this will make the overall lesson time shorter, actual riding time will be longer. After the lesson, the rider will dismount and leave the property.
- 7) Baling twine will be used in place of reins and will be discarded after use.
- 8) Helmets will be disinfected after each use.
- 9) We have a new outside sink. All riders must wash their hands before mounting.
- 10) Restroom facility is limited to a port-a-potty only. Everyone must wash their hands before and after using the facility. We will disinfect it after each use.
- 11) No contact with the horses on shed row is permitted (Cricket, JLo, Norman)
- 12) The observation room is closed until further notice.
- 13) The area around the upper barn is completely OFF LIMITS

Phase One will be welcoming riders by invitation only. We expect independent riders to be first, followed in later phases by those who require minimal volunteer assistance.

In addition, since the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the health and welfare of our community, Hope Springs finds it necessary to update certain policies and forms. Specifically, the following changes are effective immediately.

- All accounts must be paid in full before returning.
- Full payment is required at the start of the lesson. Partial payments are no longer permitted. No payment, no ride, no exceptions.
- All new paperwork, including medical and release **must be completed and returned by mail before lessons will resume**. Our mailing address is: Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, P. O. Box 156, Chester Springs, PA 19425. **No Drop Offs**
- We will make every effort to maintain existing schedules but that may not always be possible.
- New scholarship applications will be required for those covered in this program. Updates will be required annually going forward.

We recognize that this is a difficult time for everyone. Your continued support is greatly appreciated as we work through this challenging environment together.

Our therapy horses, staff and volunteers are so looking forward to seeing you again soon!