

The Licensing Team has received a number of enquiries from East Lindsey based horse riding establishments asking whether they can now open. Firstly, we must make it strongly clear that in our view it is not the function of the Council's Licensing Team to interpret the Government's COVID-19 regulations and guidance on behalf of riding establishments.

Due to the fast-moving nature of the current situation, news and guidelines are constantly changing - be that as it may we are prepared to offer the following.

The UK Government has now indicated that those who reside in England can go outside more than once a day for exercise as long as they are following social distancing guidelines, either alone, with members of their household, or with one person from outside of their household.

Outdoor sports and physical activities are permitted, while people can also leave their homes to visit a public open space for the purposes of open-air recreation to promote their physical or mental health, or emotional well-being. In relation to sports (e.g. horse riding) the activity must take place outdoors and not indoors – therefore, the horse riding activity must not take place in an indoor ménage

The relaxation of travel for exercise and meeting with one other person outside of your household means that individuals can also travel for a one-to-one sporting activity, providing social distancing is adhered to at all times.

Further to guidance for recreational sport and exercise from the Sport & Recreation Alliance and Sport England, the British Horse Society (BHS) is advising that riding schools, facility centres and livery yards in England may now re-open whilst observing the current Government guidance in relation to social distancing.

There will be further Government guidance on hygiene and increased biosecurity for the resumption of sport which must be followed. This information will be made available on the gov.uk website in the coming days.

To align with the latest Government guidelines that you may only exercise in groups of no more than two unless you are exclusively with members of your household – therefore riding schools must provide lessons or coaching to individuals only - not to family groups or mixed groups. You must not provide lessons or coaching to groups even if they are from the same household.

With the Government encouraging those who cannot work from home to return to work where possible, you are now able to travel to yards to provide individual training outdoors. Social distancing of two metres must be maintained at all times, and any further safeguarding measures should be implemented.

Everyone must adhere to the Government regulations on social distancing, public health and hygiene, with venues advised to conduct full risk assessments before undertaking any activity, as well as checking that they have adequate insurance cover with their provider.

In order to maintain vigilance and respect the social distancing, personal health and hygiene measures:

- Do not leave the house if you are feeling unwell; self-isolate if necessary.

- Those who fall into the 'at risk' categories should remain shielded at home.
- Maintain social distancing and keep two metres apart from others at all times.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap or use hand sanitiser / wipes as an alternative.
- Any shared equipment should be rigorously cleaned.
- Clean/wipe any common touchpoint surfaces regularly, such as gates, door handles etc.
- Use online booking and payment methods to minimise unnecessary contact with others.
- Conduct risk assessments, check insurance cover and maintain first aid provision, where applicable.

It is for individual businesses to develop their own guidance on reopening, to best fit their own situation, in line with the Government's advice. If you decide to start opening, then in our view it should be a gentle re-opening with significant restrictions in place for safety – please consider:

- Only private lessons.
- At least 30 mins between each lesson.
- Flat lessons only, no jumping.
- Masks worn during essential close contact times (e.g. mounting, adjusting stirrups, girth if not capable of doing it alone).
- Try to keep separate times for liveries and customers, only one spectator.
- Risk assessments.

NOTE ENDS