



*The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.*

The Kentucky Horse Park, 4041 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511  
859/254-7669 (PONY) Fax 859/233-4652 [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org)

Dear Pony Club Family:

Who would have ever thought that within just a few weeks, all of us, our family, our friends, and our nation and world would be living in such uncertainty? It is unprecedented in every conceivable way, but I am confident that we will emerge stronger, smarter, and better prepared than ever before for future uncertainties.

There are presently many unpredictable things in our lives:

- When will the pandemic subside?
- How soon will we see a cure?
- How long will Pony Club activities be suspended?
- Will I be able to take my rating/certification this year?
- Will this close my barn or stable?
- Will there be a 2020 Pony Club Festival in Lexington?
- How are our Pony Club colleagues around the world coping?
- Will I be able to get a summer job?

On and on...all are very reasonable concerns and unanswered questions.

But remember, this IS Pony Club, and there are many predictable things:

- Your Board of Governors is just as concerned about these things as you are.
- Everyday, the Pony Club Staff stands ready to answer questions and assist you in making decisions.
- Our Executive Director, Teresa Woods, and I talk daily about the effect these uncertain times are having on Pony Club and our Pony Club family.
- The Board of Governors is assessing how and when Pony Club activities can resume.
- The Board and the Staff are making plans in case the Festival needs to be postponed or even canceled.
- Pony Club is very nimble, and adjustments to rules and procedures can be changed, amended, or waived, so that our members can easily participate, when the time for activities resumes.
- Your horse or pony depends on you for care and love.
- Your horse or pony will continue to poop and make a mess of his/her stall or paddock.
- Your Pony Club training allows you to "carry on" with your horse or Pony, even in difficult times.
- Your horse or pony needs you now more than ever.
- You need your horse or pony now more than ever!
- Your family loves you, and cares about everything that you are doing.
- Your family and friends all will work together to ensure that each of us is as safe and healthy as we can be.
- We live in a great and very strong country that will always care for its citizens.

So, I have some challenges for each of you. Remember, our Pony Club training does, in fact, help prepare us for these sorts of unpredictable times:

- Tell your immediate family members at home that you love them.
- Thank your family and friends for working cooperatively to keep one another safe and healthy.

- Pick up the phone (and I mean the phone...no texting or emails allowed), and call a friend or family member who, like you, is confined to home. Find out how they are, and share with them how you are coping.
- Repeat the challenge above at least three times...daily!!!
- Give your equine companion an extra hug...at least three times a day.
- Find time to spend with your equine companion...ride, take him/her for a walk, let him/her graze while you're telling him/her the challenges of your new daily routine.
- Find a way to help a friend or family member...yard work, delivering necessities, feeding their animals.
- Take advantage of the many online opportunities that are available on the Pony Club website...or from your club or region.
- Create fun online activities of quizzes or challenges with your Pony Club friends.
- Oh yes, see above...pick up the phone and call someone who needs to hear from a friend or family member.

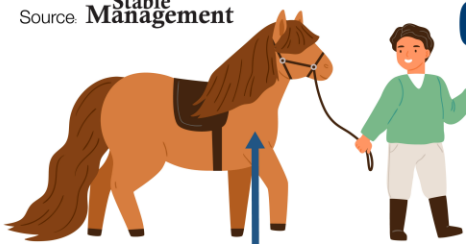
Pony Club is a resilient organization. We all understand and celebrate teamwork, collaboration, innovation, and love. We all will work together to get through these challenging times. Just remember:

### *Pony Club: Where It All Begins*

With warmest regards,  
Ben Duke  
USPC President

Source: **Stable Management**



## COVID-19 & BARN SAFETY



**Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.**

**The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.**

Respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby, or on surfaces and objects.

**NO**  
Risk of COVID-19 spread

There is **no evidence at this point** to indicate that pets become ill with COVID-19 or that they spread it to other animals, including people.

**TIPS:** Use common sense if you continue to have lessons or boarders at your facility (think "strangles protocol").

**Limit the number of people in the barn** so they can maintain about 6 feet of distance between them. If riders or boarders are unable or unwilling to do this, you might have to excuse them from lessons or from coming to the barn until the pandemic has passed.

- Encourage boarders and owners to communicate with each other or to create a virtual schedule, to help limit the number of people present in the barn at the same time.

**Actively encourage sick people and boarders to stay home.**

- Ask boarders and owners to have enough feed (concentrate, hay, and supplements) and bedding for two weeks at the barn; emergency contacts and instructions for care (feed, supplements, medications, exercise, special concerns, etc.) should be written down.

**Perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfecting.**

- Change the barn hours to allow more time for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Emphasize respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all.

**Out of an abundance of caution, it is recommended that those ill with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus.**

**YES**  
Risk of COVID-19 spread

Some commonly used surfaces that should be disinfected at least once a day:

- water and feed buckets
- cross ties, lead ropes
- halters and tack
- grooming supplies
- water taps and hoses
- stall and barn door handles
- wheelbarrow/shovels/broom handles
- frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, countertops, etc.

