




HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

BIRCHIP HARNESS RACING CLUB

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	2
2.	RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS PLAN	4
3.	ROLE OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE OFFICER	5
4.	STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS	6
4.1	Education	6
4.2	Working Arrangements	7
5.	RISK ASSESSMENTS	7
6.	CLEANING	8
6.1	Pre-opening deep clean	8
6.2	High-touch surfaces	8
6.3	Bathrooms and Toilets	9
7.	HYGIENE – Personal and Environmental	9
8.	ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS	10
9.	SOCIAL DISTANCING	11
10.	SEPARATION OF RACING OPERATIONS AND PATRONS	12
11.	RESTAURANTS AND DINING	13
12.	PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH INFECTED PERSONS	15
12.1	OHS Reporting System	15
12.2	Business Continuity Plan	16
12.3	Contact Tracing	16
12.4	Cleaning and Disinfecting	16
12.5	Managing a suspected or confirmed case	17
12.6	Notifying the Workforce and other personnel of a confirmed case	17
12.7	Notifying Worksafe	17
12.8	Reopening the Workplace	18

	<p style="text-align: center;">Birchip Harness Racing Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Safety Plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OHS-TL-011 (29 Jun 2020)</p>
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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this COVID-19 Safety Plan ("Plan") is to provide overarching guidelines for the implementation and management of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) prevention and mitigation procedures by Birchip Harness Racing Club ("Club").

The objectives of this Plan include (but are not limited to):


- Supporting the Club, its members, participants, staff and volunteers in the staged resumption of Club activities, whilst ensuring the ongoing viability of harness racing and the health and safety of our people, our industry and the general community.
- Ensuring there are strong controls embedded within Club protocols to prevent exposure of COVID-19 by anyone who has interactions with the Club for any purpose.
- Ensuring that in the unfortunate event of a confirmed COVID-19 case, Club personnel are fully equipped to effectively respond to the case and work with authorities and HRV in the containment of COVID-19.

This Plan has been formulated and aligned with government restricted activity measures, public health advice and health and safety laws.

This Plan has been ratified within the Club's governance arrangements and will be regularly reviewed and updated as the COVID-19 crisis evolves and in response to any directives of the Victorian or Federal Government.

Birchip Harness Racing Club has prepared this Plan in order to demonstrate how it will comply with the following COVID-19 protocols:

- Compliance with Government directives;
- Monitoring of overall COVID-19 case numbers, as well as cases in the local area;
- Education of staff and volunteers;
- Risk assessment of Club processes.
- Increased cleaning frequencies and regimes;
- Separation between the Club's public areas (i.e. – dining and bistro) and racing operations to ensure that there is no opportunity for any non-racing persons to come into contact with essential racing personnel;
- The implementation of strict biosecurity and hygiene protocols;
- Social distancing requirements; and
- Responding to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19.

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2. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS PLAN

Birchip Harness Racing Club retains the overall responsibility for the effective management and implementation of this Plan.

The Committee of Birchip Harness Racing Club is responsible for:

- Approving the Plan and overseeing the implementation of the arrangements in the Plan; and
- Revising the Plan as required, ensuring it reflects up to date information from government and public health officials.

The Committee has appointed the following person as the Birchip Harness Racing Club COVID-19 Response Officer to execute the delivery of the Plan and to act as a point of contact for information relating to this Plan:


Name	BRAD SHARP
Contact Email	bsharp0301@gmail.com
Contact Number	0409 431 465

Birchip Harness Racing Club expects all members, participants, officials, administrative staff, volunteers and members of the public to:

- Comply with the health directions of government and public health authorities;
- Understand and act in accordance with this Plan and any amendments as updated;
- Comply with any testing and precautionary measures implemented by the Club;
- Act with honesty and integrity in regard to the state of their personal health and any potential symptoms; and
- Monitor their health and take a cautious approach to self-isolation and reporting of potential symptoms.

3. ROLE OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE OFFICER

The COVID-19 Response Officer will be Birchip Harness Racing Club's key resource and central point of contact for all matters relating to COVID-19 on behalf of the Club.

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The COVID-19 Response Officer Roles and Responsibilities include:


- Overseeing the development and implementation of the organisation's COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- Preparing a business risk assessment in consultation with the Committee, as well as staff and volunteers.
- Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of this Plan and risk assessments for the Club and updating the Plan as necessary (i.e.- as per Government directives issued).
- Advising the Club Committee on the effectiveness of the COVID-19 Safety Plan arrangements and seeking assistance where required.
- Acting as the contact point for the Club members, participants and other relevant stakeholders (including Government authorities, HRV and other clubs). Ensuring processes embedded within the Club are consistent with this Plan and appropriate documentation is maintained to support this Plan.
- Ensuring that the plan is available for inspection by authorities.
- Ensuring appropriate response processes are acted upon should there be a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Ensuring staff are trained in procedures and are kept up to date. It is important for the Club to be able to respond efficiently and effectively in the event of any increase in community risk as well as suspected or confirmed cases directly related to the Club. In order to support this the COVID-19 Response Officer will be responsible for:
 - Regularly monitoring government websites including the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to check on COVID-19 infection rates within their local area and overall.
 - Encouraging all staff, participants, and customers to download the COVIDSafe App.
 - Keeping abreast of news and media alerts relating to COVID-19.

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

All staff and volunteers will be instructed not to attend the Club if they are unwell.

4.1 Education

Birchip Harness Racing Club will ensure that staff and volunteers are trained and kept up to date in relation to the Club's COVID-19 procedures. COVID-19 information and updates will be an agenda item on all Club and team meetings.

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Club staff and volunteers will undergo training that covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID -19 including:

- What is COVID-19?;
- Signs and Symptoms;
- Keeping safe-protecting yourself and others, physical distancing; and
- Myth busting.

Club staff and volunteers will complete the online training provided by the Australian Government [Health.gov-COVID-19-infection-control-training](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/coronavirus).

Records of training conducted will be retained for audit purposes.

Birchip HRC will ensure that our staff and volunteers complete any additional training as deemed necessary and as directed by HRV.

Hospitality staff will complete the Victorian Government training as the first preference. COVID-19 Return to work It is not necessary for hospitality staff to complete both training courses.

Birchip HRC will instruct staff and volunteers in relation to [COVID-19 cleaning](#) processes and provide sufficient supplies of cleaning products.


Birchip HRC will display the DHHS poster “How to wear a face mask” at the entry and in various locations within the club. Club Officials will monitor the correct use of masks by all staff, volunteers and other persons entering the club. This poster can be located on the Trots website [here](#)

4.2 Working Arrangements

Birchip HRC will ensure that any staff that are able to work from home do so and that any time in the office is limited to necessary race or trial preparation duties.

Birchip HRC will conduct an analysis to ensure that there is minimal movement of staff between racetracks as well as between other workplaces. Records of staff movements will be maintained.

Where possible Birchip HRC will ensure that workforce bubbles are created by rostering staff for staggered start and break times and in teams/areas to reduce the number of contacts. and ensure physical distancing.

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Birchip HRC will ensure that staff contact details are up to date and that the contact list is able to be accessed by Club Officials, whilst ensuring that privacy guidelines are adhered to.

5. RISK ASSESSMENTS

Birchip Harness Racing Club has conducted a risk assessment for its operations, including an assessment of controls the Club has embedded to mitigate COVID-19 exposures.

A risk assessment has also been completed for employees and volunteers who are in the vulnerable risk categories (as defined by Government) including, those who are:

- Over 70;
- Over 65 with existing health conditions;
- Over 50, indigenous with existing health conditions; and
- With compromised immune systems.

For confidentiality purposes, the risk assessment for those vulnerable employees and volunteers will be retained in a secure location, with restricted access to only authorised persons.

6. CLEANING

The Club's cleaning processes are consistent with the following guidelines issued by the Government:


- Cleaning and disinfecting to reduce COVID-19 transmission (issued on 20 March 2020). Link [here](#)
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Food Premises. Link [here](#)

6.1 Pre-opening deep clean

Birchip HRC Harness Racing Club have conducted an initial deep cleaning prior to re-opening and have implemented an environmental cleaning schedule to ensure frequent cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces and bathrooms.

6.2 High-touch surfaces

Regular cleaning and sanitising of common high-touch contact surfaces will help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The minimum requirement is twice daily. Surfaces and fittings should also be cleaned immediately when visibly soiled and after any spillage. A sanitiser or disinfectant should be used following thorough cleaning. Cleaning frequencies have been increased and staff and volunteers have been instructed to clean their areas, especially when starting or completing their shift. The Club will supply sufficient quantities of cleaning products.

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Where possible, high touch communal items will be replaced with alternatives e.g. disposable and single use items.

Common contact surfaces include (but are not limited to):

- Eating and drinking utensils;
- Tables and chairs (including underneath);
- Kitchen and food contact surfaces;
- Door and cupboard handles;
- Handrails;
- Refrigerator handles;
- Tap handles;
- Switches;
- Phones;
- EFTPOS keypads; and
- ATM machines.

Clubs are required to maintain documented cleaning records. Compliance may be achieved by completing a [Covid-Cleaning Log](#).

6.3 Bathrooms and Toilets

Bathrooms and toilets, including high touch surfaces within them, will be frequently cleaned. Bathroom and toilet cleaning frequencies should increase relative to the number of persons in the premises. Toilets will be maintained in working condition with warm running water for the hand basin.

7. HYGIENE – Personal and Environmental


The Club will promote hygiene practices to ensure all persons attending the Club are observing appropriate hygiene measures to minimise the risk of exposure to, contracting or spreading COVID-19.

All persons attending the Club will be encouraged to follow the protocols below:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This includes before and after eating and after going to the toilet;
- Using alcohol-based hand sanitisers when soap and water is not available;
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.

The Club will:

- Increase the amount of fresh air by opening windows or using air conditioning. The Club will ensure that air conditioning is turned on or windows are opened at least one hour prior to the race or trial meeting. Air conditioning will remain on or windows will remain open for the duration of the race or trial meeting.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently used;

 <p>HARNESS RACING VICTORIA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Birchip Harness Racing Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Safety Plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OHS-TL-011 (29 Jun 2020)</p>
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- Display hand hygiene posters near all hand washing facilities to support hygiene practices; and
- Provide soap dispensers, disposable hand towels/dryers and hand sanitiser as well as waste receptacles to hygienically dispose of paper towel.

8. ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS

Separate entry and exit points will be established for essential personnel and the general public, including owners and patrons who are visiting the club. Attendees at race meetings, other than essential personnel, will be managed in line with the Restricted Activity Directions (for events under 1000 people) and the Public Events Framework. <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/public-events-information-for-organisers> (for events with patrons exceeding 1000.)

Attendees will also be requested to not attend the premises if they are unwell.

Essential personnel will continue to follow HRV entry procedures that have been implemented during the COVID-19 crisis, including:


- Not attending the premises when they are unwell or where they have had exposures to a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Completion of the Infectious Disease Declaration.
- Wearing the wrist band issued on entry at all times whilst at the Club.

All other persons visiting the Club, including staff members and volunteers will be required to:

- Provide their name and contact details to be recorded on a Contact Register, via the use of a QR code. Clubs must state what method they will use. If you choose not to use a QR code the density quotient is 1 person per 4sqm. Where a QR code is used, the density quotient is 1 person per 2sqm.
- Not attending the premises if they are unwell or where they have had exposures to a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Sanitise their hands and maintain personal hygiene. Sanitiser will be made available at entry points.

Social distancing will be enforced at entry points via:

- The provision of separate entries for public areas and racing operations.
- Visible ground markings to remind entrants of 1.5 metre distancing requirements.
- The following signage will be displayed:
 - Advice to patrons regarding the need to provide their contact details.
 - General COVID -19 information, including symptoms.

 <p>HARNESS RACING VICTORIA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Birchip Harness Racing Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Safety Plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OHS-TL-011 (29 Jun 2020)</p>
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- Social distancing signs.
- COVIDSafe App information.
- How to wear a mask safely.

- The Club will ensure that all persons comply with Government directives to carry a mask at all times and wear it as required.
- The industry has been advised that anyone who is breach of these requirements will be penalised under Rule AHRR 238, which states “A person shall not fail to comply with any order, direction or requirement of the Controlling Body or the Stewards relating to harness racing or to the harness racing industry”.

9. SOCIAL DISTANCING

Birchip Harness Racing Club has implemented the following to ensure social distancing requirements are enforced:

- Signage at the entrance and inside each internal room dictating the number of persons allowable at a given time as per the density quotient requirement – as per government directives.
- Distance markers indicating 1.5 metres separation are positioned at various locations in the venue where patrons may be required to queue e.g. toilets, takeaway areas, bistro payment areas.
- Markings (e.g. arrows) on the floor to direct the flow of foot-traffic to avoid people passing each other.
- Ensure that the delivery of goods is contactless.
- Furniture set-up that is at least 1.5 metres apart. Ensure that employees and others do not face each other. This may include office areas or areas used by the stewards on race days.
- Use screens or barriers where appropriate.
- Pre-booking systems to ensure that capacity is not over-reached.
- Security manning the entry to ensure only authorised persons are entering the premises (i.e. those who have pre-booked, staff members and contractors required to enter).
- Monitoring physical distancing compliance (this task may be assigned to the COVID-19 Response Officer, security or club officials).
- Clear separations between racing areas and public areas within the club.
- Delivery is contactless. Any deliveries are dropped off and no signatures are required.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Birchip Harness Racing Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Safety Plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OHS-TL-011 (29 Jun 2020)</p>
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- Policies and procedures enforcing social distancing requirements, which have been communicated to staff, participants, owners and members of the public.

10. SEPARATION OF RACING OPERATIONS AND PATRONS

The hosting of patrons at Clubs is separate and distinct from racing operations. Patrons and essential personnel will be physically separated at all times.

Persons attending the public areas of the Club will not be permitted under any circumstances to enter the racing areas. Where rooms that are used for racing operations are located within the clubhouse, the Club will ensure that there is strict separation of the racing areas and the public access areas.

Essential racing personnel are not permitted to enter the public areas of the club where they may come in contact with owners or members of the public.

Birchip Harness Racing Club reserves the right to remove patrons who repeatedly fail to observe the Club's social distancing requirements or access restrictions. Essential racing personnel and owners who fail to follow these rules face penalties under AHRR rule 238.


Birchip Harness Racing Club will achieve this separation through the following measures:

- Constant monitoring of areas where access may be sought to the racing operations
- Locking of gates and other access points
- Setting up temporary fixtures to prevent access
- Signage advising of 'out of bounds' areas

11. RESTAURANTS AND DINING

Provision of takeaway food can continue as per the [Racetrack Access and Operational Procedures](#)

Birchip Harness Racing Club will abide by all Government directives, including the Industry Restart Guidelines Hospitality (including electronic gaming) which can be found at: [coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services](#)

 <p>HARNESS RACING VICTORIA</p>	<p align="center">Birchip Harness Racing Club</p> <p align="center">COVID-19 Safety Plan</p> <p align="center">OFFICIAL</p>	<p align="center">OHS-TL-011 (29 Jun 2020)</p>
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Hospitality venues in arenas / racetracks are subject to the same restrictions as other hospitality if open to the public.

Additional guidelines include:

- Encouraging online and phone bookings and limiting the number of walk-in diners.
- Provision of hand sanitisers at strategic locations.
- Complying to the maximum number of patrons permitted in the space in line with government directives.
- Separate entry and exit points where possible.
- Recording the name and contact number of each person coming into the premises.
- Floor markings for physical distancing when queuing or moving around the space.
- Display of the following signage;
 - Density quotient signs displaying the permitted number of people in a room;
 - Advising patrons of the need to provide their contact details;
 - General COVID-19 information;
 - Social distancing signs;
 - COVIDSafe App;
 - Handwashing.
- Increased cleaning, especially for high-touch surfaces.
- Removal of communal and self-service facilities e.g. buffets, cutlery containers or trays, water, tea and coffee stations.
- Use of laminated or disposable menus and single use condiments such as sugar and salt and pepper sachets.
- Set up of tables and chairs to ensure 1.5 metres distance between seated patrons.
- Abiding by the maximum number of guests to be seated at any one table.
- Encouraging customers to use contactless payment.
- Creating workforce bubbles by rostering staff for staggered start times and in teams/areas to reduce the number of contacts.
- Ensuring staff complete a self-assessment and do not come to work if they show symptoms of COVID-19.
- Clubs will ensure that employees that have more than one job have provided a written declaration of such, listing their employers and COVIDSafe arrangements in place which is recorded and retained by the club.



Birchip Harness Racing Club

COVID-19 Safety Plan

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**OHS-TL-011
(29 Jun 2020)**

12. PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH INFECTED PERSONS

HRV has established a COVID-19 Reporting and Response Policy and Procedure which details the step by step procedure of responding to COVID-19 cases and working closely with DHHS and/or Worksafe. HRV have been following directions of Government and DHHS on all protocols surrounding response procedures.

Birchip Harness Racing Club will follow the HRV Confirmed case of COVID-19 policy and procedure (LRC-PP-102) which can be located [here](#).

This document provides detailed actions to be taken if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19.

12.1 OHS Reporting System

Club Officials, staff and volunteers have been provided with communication and instruction regarding the protocols surrounding reporting COVID-19 related incidents via the OHS Reporting Team. This must be done by logging onto the Trots website and completing the COVID Reporting Form or alternatively by contacting the OHS Reporting Line directly on 03 9214 0664. The COVID Reporting Form must be completed by suspected or confirmed cases and anyone undergoing testing. As part of this form, it directly asks the reporter to disclose any interactions they have had with the industry to assist with contact tracing where required.

The HRV OHS Reporting Team are fully equipped to respond to and liaise with the Club, DHHS or Worksafe should the need arise.

12.2 Business Continuity Plan


Birchip HRC are bound by direction from HRV as part of their Business Continuity Plan process.

HRV has a Business Continuity Plan for Pandemics which covers the impacts of an outbreak and potential closure of the workplace. Specific to coronavirus, HRV has a Coronavirus Response Plan which details the response to COVID-19.

Birchip HRC has a business response team, which consists of Brad Sharp, Travis Knights and Kevin Sharp that will be the first line of defence should an emergency arise. This team of people are fully equipped with HRV's response protocols to COVID and can exercise the HRV COVID-19 Reporting and Response Policy and Procedure where required.

12.3 Contact Tracing

Birchip HRC is fully prepared to assist DHHS/Worksafe with contact tracing. The Club maintains records of attendance for the club premises and will provide these records to DHHS and/or Worksafe to support the contact tracing process. Initial contact tracing will be

	<p style="text-align: center;">Birchip Harness Racing Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Safety Plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OHS-TL-011 (29 Jun 2020)</p>
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undertaken in conjunction with HRV so that advice can be provided to the authorities with regards to the steps already taken.

The policy has been communicated to staff, volunteers, club officials, participants and third parties.

12.4 Cleaning and Disinfecting

Where there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, Birchip HRC will ensure that no one enters the affected area until consultation occurs with Worksafe and/or DHHS, and a deep clean of the affected area has been undertaken. This could result in either the whole venue shutting down or part of the venue, depending on requirements of DHHS and Worksafe.

12.5 Managing a suspected or confirmed case

If there is a suspected or confirmed case Birchip HRC will ensure that the person is segregated from all others and additional PPE provided eg masks and gloves. The person must then be transported safely to their home by private means or to a hospital. Work Safe will also be immediately notified in the instance of a confirmed case.

12.6 Notifying the Workforce and other personnel of a confirmed case

Birchip HRC will ensure that the workforce (including staff, volunteers and contractors) are advised of a positive COVID-19 case in line with HRV and DHHS requirements.


The Club will use the following methods to communicate with personnel:

- Telephone
- Email

Where a positive COVID-19 case would have further repercussions on the industry (e.g. in the event that personnel had attended races or trials), communications will be referred to the HRV Crisis Management team and the Media & Communications Manager.

12.7 Notifying Worksafe

Non-race day occurrence. The club representative must report directly to Worksafe on **13 23 60** on behalf of their club. They must also report to HRV via the HRV OHS Reporting Line (**03 9214 0664**) and liaise with and seek the advice of the Senior Advisor OHS to ensure that all

 <p>HARNESS RACING VICTORIA</p>	<p>Birchip Harness Racing Club</p> <p>COVID-19 Safety Plan</p> <p>OFFICIAL</p>	<p>OHS-TL-011 (29 Jun 2020)</p>
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requirements are met. Note that the Primary Contact for a visit by Work Safe will be a nominated Club Official.

Racing related Upon receiving confirmation of a positive case of COVID-19 the process is for the Senior Advisor, OHS to report the incident to Work Safe and work with the nominated Club Official, Work Safe and any other relevant stakeholders involved (e.g. the individual, the Integrity team) to ensure that all requirements are met. Note that the Primary Contact for a visit by Work Safe will be a nominated Club Official.

The COVID Safe Plan must be made available to a Worksafe inspection, Public Health Official or Police Officer on request.

12.8 Reopening the Workplace

Birchip HRC would only reopen under the advice of DHHS and WorkSafe once all of the following are completed:

- Ensuring a deep clean is undertaken.
- The contact tracing process is carried out and all potential contacts are cleared by DHHS.
- A thorough risk assessment to ensure all controls are embedded and working adequately is conducted.
- Liaison with the HRV Senior Advisor, OHS and the HRV Crisis Management Team.