

National COVID19 Restriction Summary

As a result of the newly identified variant of the virus, the national governments have responded with new restrictions. It is very important that you check the restrictions in your local area, in particular riding centres should check with their insurance company and local authority for any local variation in national restrictions.

Pony Club activities are not essential travel and are not permitted within a lockdown area where sporting activities are prohibited or where essential travel only restrictions have been put in place by local government.

Lockdown / Restriction Guidance as of 8.1.21

All of the home nations are under lockdown restriction in the UK, with the exception of some islands. We are being asked to “Stay at Home” and only leave our homes for essential reasons such as health, education, essential shopping, work that cannot be done from home and exercise. Pony Club face to face activity is suspended in this lockdown phase. Travelling to care for horses and ponies and exercising them locally for welfare reasons is allowed. Livery yards are allowed to be open for owners / carers to look after their animals.



England:

New restrictions to be reviewed 15th February

- Stay at Home
- Do not meet with other households
- You can leave home for:
 - Work which cannot be done from home
 - Education
 - Health and caring responsibilities
 - Local, Outdoor exercise
 - Essential shopping
 - Caring and exercising of an animal
- You may exercise on your own, with your household or with one other person.
- Leisure and sports facilities must close. Owners and carers can use a livery yard arena to exercise their horse but facilities cannot be hired.
- Travelling horses should only be on welfare or veterinary grounds.
- Coaches are allowed to work and travel for 1:1 instruction at a client's home but should check their insurance before undertaking any teaching.
- Elite training and competition may continue (Pony Club is not classed as Elite)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>



Northern Ireland:

New law in place until 6th February, will be reviewed 21st January

- Stay at Home
- No indoor mixing of households.
- Can only leave home for a limited number of reasons, including for medical and food needs, exercise and work that cannot be done from home.
- Up to six people from no more than two households can meet in an outdoor setting (NOT including a private garden), but with social distancing in place. Children under 12 are included in these numbers.
- Unique household bubbles can form up of up to 10 people
- Equestrian activity (care and exercise) should be for equine welfare purposes only.
- Sports and leisure facilities should close.
- No one-to-one or group training sessions may run.
- Only elite training and competition may continue.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>



Scotland:

Restrictions to be reviewed 31st January

- Stay at Home
- No indoor mixing of households.
- Maximum of two people from two separate households or a single household group can meet outdoors for the purpose of sport or exercise. Children under 12 can meet together outside
- You may take part in local outdoor recreation, sport or exercise that starts and finishes in the same place, up to five miles from the boundary of your local authority area, provided that you abide by the rules on meeting other households.
- Organised sport and exercise for under-12s can continue in line with workplace and socialising guidance and sport-specific guidance agreed.
- Coaches may continue to operate within the travel restrictions and should not deliver a session to more than one person aged 12 or over at a time.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/>



Wales:

Restrictions to be reviewed 18th January

- Stay at Home
- No indoor or outdoor mixing with other households or support bubbles
- You may leave the house to tend to and exercise a horse in your ownership or care, but journeys should be kept to a minimum. The advice is not to travel horses off a premises for the purposes of exercise – all activity should 'start and finish at home'.
- Organised equine sport is suspended and facilities closed.

<https://gov.wales/alert-level-4>

Helpful websites:

BEF COVID update (including financial support for businesses and self-employed:

[COVID update: Home nations in lockdown - News - British Equestrian](#)

GOV.UK – National lockdown guidance document -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf

Sport England - <https://www.sportengland.org/news/what-new-national-lockdown-means-sport-and-physical-activity-england>

sportscotland - <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/>

horsescotland - <https://www.horsescotland.org/covid-19support>

Sport Wales - <https://www.sport.wales/media-centre/latest-news/taking-part-in-sport-and-exercise-in-wales-the-guidance/>