

December 17, 2020

RE: EXEMPTION REQUEST– ORDER 42-2020 – EQUESTRIAN EXERCISE

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta, a state of public health emergency was declared in the Province of Alberta on November 24, 2020 pursuant to s. 52.1 of the *Public Health Act* of Alberta.

Further to that declaration of a public health emergency the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), pursuant to her authority under s. 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made CMOH Order 42-2020 (the Order) which rescinded CMOH Orders 38-2020 and 39-2020, as modified through Orders 40-2020 and 41-2020, in that CMOH Orders 38-2020 and 39-2020 were insufficient to protect Albertans from exposure to COVID-19 and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The purpose of the Order is to help protect Albertans from the exposure to and spread of COVID-19 by prohibiting persons from attending certain locations for certain periods of time and subjecting such persons to any conditions that the CMOH considers appropriate including prohibiting persons from engaging in activities that could transmit an infectious agent and which the CMOH considers necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency. In addition setting such conditions as the CMOH considers appropriate or necessary on businesses and entities to lessen the impact of the public health emergency when those business or entities are offering goods or services to the public.

Pursuant to Section 47 of the Order the CMOH may exempt in writing persons or classes of persons from the operation of the Order.

The Office of CMOH has received requests to permit access to stables and riding arenas and to exempt these locations for the purpose of equestrian exercise in order to maintain animal health. The request states that public health and safety measures will be required and that individuals will need to schedule a time to limit the number of horses in a riding arenas at one time.

Pursuant to Sections 25 and 27 of the Order and Section 3 of the Appendix A these facilities must be closed to the public except where a facility is being used for a purpose set out in Section 28 of the Order.

Pursuant to Section 47 of the Order I am satisfied that an exemption from sections 25 and 27 of the Order be granted to the following premises and the following persons upon the following conditions:

- I. Subject to the conditions in paragraphs II to IV, equestrian complexes that are businesses or entities that provide stable facilities, and indoor and/or outdoor horse riding arena areas as described in section 3 of the Appendix of the Order are exempt from sections 25 and 27 of the Order and Section 3 of the Appendix of the Order for the purpose of providing access to individuals so that that the horses stabled or normally exercised within these equine complexes may be exercised and for the purposes of providing animal care and animal health related services, including but not limited to veterinary services;
- II. For further clarity, this exemption does not permit activities contemplated in other sections of the Order specifically under section 2 of the Appendix of the Order which restricts sporting events and competitions;
- III. The equestrian complexes described in paragraph I shall comply with all of the below requirements:
 - a. Horses located within the stables of an equine complex can only be accessed by their owners, trainers, or veterinarian staff for the purposes of feeding, watering, training, and providing animal health related services including but not limited to veterinary services of their horses;
 - b. To limit the number of people in a stable at one time, appointments or prearranged permission to access during a specified timeframe is required;
 - c. Indoor horse riding arenas within an equine complex may permit individual riders to exercise their horses but a 2 metre distancing must be maintained at all times between individual riders. The number of people in a horse riding arena is determined by the ability to maintain 2 metre distancing at all times. To comply with this provision, appointments are suggested for riders and their horses within an indoor horse riding arena.
 - d. Riding lessons and therapeutic or therapy horse riding in an indoor riding horse riding arena areas is not permitted;
 - e. Group riding lessons and therapeutic or therapy horse riding in an outdoor riding arena or area is permitted to a maximum of 10 persons, including the instructor;
 - f. If tack has to be shared between riders, it should be sanitized as possible, and riders' hands sanitized before and after use; and
 - g. Masks are required for persons within stables, tack room, and indoor locations. Riders must wear masks unless riding vigorously.
- IV. The equestrian complexes that are businesses or entities that provide stable facilities, and indoor and/or outdoor horse riding arena areas as described in

paragraph I shall follow any further public health conditions or requirements that relate to public health and safety that may be provided in writing from time to time by Alberta Health or Alberta Health Services.

Although the businesses and entities identified above are exempt per Section 47 of the Order, all persons who are identified in this exemption are subject to the appropriate hygiene, masking and other barriers or PPE as appropriate to the activity, distancing of a minimum of two metres from any other persons, and all other measures identified by public health authorities to protect these persons and other Albertans from further transmission of COVID-19.

The exemption may be terminated or modified by the CMOH in writing without notice and for any reason as determined by the CMOH.

This exemption comes into effect on December 17, 2020 and terminates as specified in Schedule A.

We trust this is satisfactory

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deena Hinshaw", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Deena Hinshaw
Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta