

Pegasus Project Re-Opening Plan

Pegasus Project's mission is to provide horseback riding lessons and other equine related activities to children and adults with special needs to improve their overall health and well-being. We work with an average of 50 participants each week, to help them gain mental and physical benefits such as increased core-strength, improved balance and coordination, an increase in self-confidence, and so much more. We are a Premier Accredited center through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, and because of this we already have a plethora of facility and safety standards implemented.

We normally have up to four participants in a one-hour lesson, with some of those participants needing assistance from volunteers walking on each side of their horse to help them with directions and physically to make sure they keep their balance on the horse. Many of our participants also require help from their instructor to mount and dismount from the horse. Our plan is to re-open in three stages; first stage allows independent riders to begin lessons. Stage 2 will allow riders who require only one volunteer. Stage 3 will involve all our participants, including those with up to 3 volunteers assisting them.

We will have minimal volunteer involvement in Stage 1 and staff will assist with majority of lesson tasks. We will advance to Stages 2 & then 3 once social distancing restrictions have eased.

Lessons will be held outdoors as much as possible. While we are in the indoor arena, we will keep doors open and as much ventilation as possible, weather permitting.

COVID-19 Supervisor: Jené Pleger, Executive Director

Duties: Oversee that all procedures in our re-opening plan are being carried out on a daily basis. Check-in with staff at beginning of their shift to make sure no symptoms are present.

PPE:

All Staff, volunteers, and riders/family members are required to wear a mask when in the building or while participating in lessons. Instructors are not required to wear a mask while teaching lessons so that they can clearly communicate, but they are required to wear one while assisting with mounting or dismounting because they cannot keep 6 feet of distance. Independent riders are not required to wear a mask while on horseback since they can maintain proper distancing. Staff may take mask off if working alone in their office or alone outside/in the barn.

Employees have been given a re-usable washable mask. Extra disposable masks are located in the first aid cabinet in the arena.

Hand washing:

Every person must wash hands in the restroom immediately upon entering the building. Riders, staff and volunteers are also encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering the arena. There is hand sanitizer located on the front desk in the office, and also the arena wall as you enter the dirt arena through the man-door.

Tack/ Equipment:

Reins will be changed out between riders and cleaned at the end of the day. Tack will be wiped down with leather cleaner wipes between riders. Horses will be tacked by staff with minimal volunteer help. All grooming brushes, etc will be disinfected when the horse is done with lessons for the day.

**Please note – there is no way to effectively sanitize organic material such as leather without damaging it. Because of this, we will clean saddles between riders, but please be aware that they will not be sanitized/disinfected. **

Visitors:

Limit visitors who come with their rider to one parent/caretaker. Visitors will wait in their cars until 5 minutes before their lesson is set to begin – they will not be allowed to wait inside the arena if they arrive earlier for their lesson. All visitors must wear a mask while in the building and arena.

All visitors will be screened with the daily checklist when they arrive at Pegasus each day by either the Executive Director or Program Coordinator. Riders and volunteers MUST cancel if they have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell.

Volunteers: When signing in and out in the Volunteer Log, please either use your own pen, or discard your clean pen into the “used” container after you have used it so we can sanitize.

We will keep an attendance log of all riders electronically on a weekly basis to track all visitors coming on to the property.

Any visitors who are not volunteers or a parent/caretaker of a rider MUST sign in on the Visitor’s log on the front office desk. Please put your pen in the “used” container after you use it so we can sanitize.

Cleaning:

The office will be professionally cleaned every other Monday. Frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected twice a day (light switches, door handles, etc) at noon and 7 pm when lessons are done for the day by a staff member appointed by the Executive Director.

Doors will be left open when possible so that handles are not touched as frequently. Helmets will be sprayed with disinfectant between riders (as always). Riders are encouraged to bring their own personal helmet if possible.

Health & Safety:

Everyone must maintain 6 feet social distancing at all times.

Employees will be screened with the daily check-list at the beginning of each shift for any symptoms by the Executive Director, and no one will be allowed on the property if they have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell, or have been exposed to anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result in the last 14 days.

There will be a 15 minute break between all lesson times to give us time to clean and to stagger visitors on the property.

Tuition & Donation Payments:

Please use the links on the bottom of our website homepage (www.pegasusrides.com) to pay tuition or to make a donation so that we can refrain from handling any cash at this time. If you must pay by cash or check, please drop it in the black payment box in the arena.

All staff, volunteers and participant families will be sent our re-opening plan prior to coming back to Pegasus, and will be made aware of any new safety and health requirements we have implemented.