

URC Summer Quarter Lesson Rules & Procedures - COVID-19

Welcome Back!!! We are so excited to have our riders and families returning to URC to enjoy a wonderful summer of horse fun and riding!

Please read the following thoroughly. *The following policies and procedures must be strictly adhered to as we resume lessons at URC. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support!*

- **Lesson sizes have been reduced** to assist in Social Distancing, and under current state and local guidelines, prevent more than 10 people from gathering inside the barns or in close proximity out of doors around the farm.
- **One parent/guardian should bring the student** to their riding lesson - *no additional parents, guardians, relatives, or siblings are permitted on property, especially during lesson and lease ride times. We fill up fast!*
- As much as possible, parents/guardians should plan to remain in their personal vehicle except when assisting their child to the ring, helping their child mount their lesson horse, or using the bathroom.
 - *We will try our best to reserve parking spaces around the ring for lesson parents to watch the lesson from their vehicles. Look for safety cones marking this area.*
- **When arriving at the barn - STOP AND READ ALL SIGNS!** *Look for tape that will help you know what areas are limited access.*
- **Face masks must be worn by all persons if entering the barn** to use the bathroom and whenever you are within 6 feet of another person outdoors.
- **We recommend students wear gloves when handling horses, equipment and tack;** there are mixed opinions about gloves - use your best judgement, but always thoroughly wash hands after any activity here at URC.
- **Lessons will be taught in outdoor arenas unless weather conditions unexpectedly change** - in the event of all-day inclement weather, lessons may be cancelled or rescheduled. *Outdoors in the sunshine with good airflow is recognized as a less-likely environment for transmission of COVID-19; in addition the Maryland Horse Council recommends staff and riders wear masks when riding indoors; this can present a safety conflict for lessons since two-way communication is vital and face masks can make it difficult for trainers and students to hear each other.*
- **Lesson horses will be tacked by a staff member, waiting in the ring for riders** in any lesson below the Intermediate B level.
- Lesson horses will be tacked with a halter underneath their bridle and a lead rope that is used exclusively by the staff person leading the horse.
- **Lesson students should not go into the barn** - exceptions are using the bathroom and participation in our RideShare Lease rides - *RideShare lease ride safety protocols and guidelines apply.*
- **Students that require assistance mounting, beyond the use of the mounting block, must be assisted by their parents** - *per current guidelines and restrictions, our staff is not allowed to assist with mounting at this time.* This is especially important for our younger Beginner A/A+ students who do require assistance mounting. We are happy to give parents a quick 'how-to' and are able to steady the horse. Your child will appreciate your participation!
- **Riders and parents/guardians may use our main indoor bathroom;** please walk along the outdoor arena fence outside of the main barn, entering the bathroom in the most direct manner possible.
- Please note, our lounge and lounge bathroom are still closed! Please **bring drinks, snacks and coolers to keep you comfortable during lesson times.**
- We have soap/handwashing, hand sanitizer, wipes and disinfectant sprays, but recommend you bring your own supplies to ensure you have everything you need on hand.

Thank you so much for your support and cooperation with these guidelines and procedures. It is a weird world right now, but horses definitely make it better. If you have any questions, shoot us a text!