

# COVID-19 Risk Statement & Procedures (short version)

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Revised 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Following consultation with DCC and Torbay Council Sirona is continuing to provide a limited provision during the current COVID-19 pandemic for vulnerable young people in line with Gov guidance. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans – a legal document that describes a child's special educational needs and the support they require. Sirona is committed to providing support to vulnerable young people and their families/carers where possible at this difficult time.

We will be prioritising participants and participants in the following order:

1. Participants on our current timetable who meet the above criteria who have been risk assessed by their education provider/social worker and who would become distressed if they are unable to attend their sessions
2. Current participants who need to be in an outdoor/animal assisted environment for their mental/physical health and wellbeing
3. Participants on our waiting list who meet the above criteria

## Policies and procedures to minimise risk

Participants who meet the above criteria will be able to continue to attend subject to the following conditions:

- The participants, staff team, volunteers and their families remain healthy with no signs of the virus and **DO NOT** come to Sirona if they are having any symptoms of the virus:
- The participants and their families are cautious and follow all government guidelines regarding unnecessary contact and all other preventative measures to minimise their risk of contracting the virus where possible
- that anyone who has been advised/decides to self-isolate because of being in contact with someone who has/may have the virus notifies Sirona of this, and remains away from Sirona for the duration of the self-isolation period
- that anyone who has been to Sirona and develops symptoms of COVID-19 within a week of their last visit notifies Sirona
- a close record is always kept of who is on site at any time, so that any inadvertent contact may be notified
- The participants are **not** in a high-risk category with underlying health conditions which would make continuing to attend Sirona Therapeutic Horsemanship too great a risk to their health
- Participants understand the infection control procedures in place at the stables and will agree to follow them

- Participants agree to keep a safe distance from any other participants who may be attending the stables and understand that they may need to undertake alternative activities than normal at times in order to minimise risk
- We will have a maximum of 2 participants present on site at any one time
- Participants who require support will only bring one family member or support staff with them to the stables
- Participants and their families/support staff understand the infection control procedures in place at the stables and will agree to follow them
- Participants and their families/support staff agree to keep a safe distance from any other participants who may be attending the stables

### **Activity Safety Procedures**

During equine sessions the following procedures will be put in place to minimise risk to participants, employees / volunteers and any visitors.

- Participants will be asked to wash their hands when they arrive, when they leave the stables, and between activities. Participants are encouraged not to touch their faces
- Social distancing of 2 meters to be adhered to as far as possible at all times
- If participants need to cough or sneeze, they need to use a tissue or sneeze into their elbow and wash their hands afterwards
- Participants are encouraged to purchase and wear their own current standard riding hat. Current standards are: PAS 015:1998 or 2011\* with BSI Kitemark.
- If participants borrow our riding hats or boots, they will be cleaned after use with an anti-bacterial cleaner.
- Where participants have their own grooming kit, they are not to share their equipment with any other participant.
- Participants will be asked to wear gloves and a mask if they have one and are able to, however if they do not have gloves or a mask, or cannot wear gloves or a mask, we ask for all participants to wash their hands before and after touching any equipment.
- Participants are to avoid bringing anyone with them onto the stable yard unless necessary. Parents / partners (unless required to support the participant) are encouraged to stay in their vehicles where possible. Please see Transport advice for further details.
- Session activities have been adapted to take place outdoors and with minimal contact between practitioners and participants – i.e. close contact classroom activities changed to walking ponies outside.

### **Transport**

We advise against the use of taxis unless no other alternative. Please can all participants who arrive via a taxi service ensure that the driver remains in the vehicle when on the Sirona Therapeutic Horsemanship site. Please sit in the back of the vehicle and wash your hand immediately upon arrival and before leaving. Please avoid touching your face while you are in the vehicle.

**When you reach the stables, please remain in your vehicle until a team member comes to collect you.** We are asking for participants to let any previous clients or visitors to get into their car, before you get out of your car, to minimise any unnecessary contact.