

Protocol for the Operation of Markopoulo Park and Greek Horse Races behind closed doors during the precautionary measures against Covid-19



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1. General

In the frame of restarting Markopoulo Park and Greek Horse Races, **HORSE RACES S.A.** created the «**Protocol for the Operation of Markopoulo Park and Greek Horse Races behind closed doors during the precautionary measures against Covid-19**».

This guideline includes measures for restarting the operation of the Markopoulo Park facilities, as well as restarting Greek Horse Races during the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic. The measures included, have the purpose of ensuring the protection of the personnel, the horse racing community and the persons required for the conduct of horse races at Markopoulo Park and minimize the possibility to spread the infection.

All persons involved with the racing activity, have to take emphasis in following the Natural Public Health Organization's directions outside of the racetrack as well, regarding the protective measures (proper use of mask, distances and hygiene with the use of water and soap, and/or alcoholic antiseptic fluid), as well the Civil Protection's measures.

The measures are in accordance with the rules for health and reducing the danger of an incident or spreading Covid-19 by the Hellenic Ministry of Health, and are as follows:

- Entry at Markopoulo Park
- Morning Track work
- Entries – Declarations
- Race Meeting
- Operation of Medical Room
- Dealing with a Suspected Case
- Other Procedures at Markopoulo Park facilities

Finally, the following is also included:

- General Guidelines for the Protection of the Public, by the National Public Health Organization as well as detailed measures for:
- Self-isolation - Quarantine

These guidelines shall be updated, whenever that is deemed necessary, following the developments on COVID-19, as well as the direction given and the measures by the Greek Government and the National Public Health Organization.

Any violations of the procedures shall be dealt with by the GJC competent bodies.

Entry at Markopoulo Park

- The two (2) gates of the Markopoulo Park facilities (central and northern) are the points of entry. Anyone that enters Markopoulo Park shall fill in the relevant Movement List. Furthermore, everyone entering the racetrack's facilities will have their temperature taken. If when checked through questionnaire, upon entry at the Markopoulo Park facilities, there are symptoms that match the Covid-19 infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath, exhaustion, myalgia) or if close contacts are a suspected or confirmed case within the past 14 days, as resulted by the Markopoulo Park Movement List, **the entrance shall be forbidden to the suspected case.**
- Entry at the Markopoulo Park facilities will only be permitted to authorized persons. Upon entry the relevant list will be checked and facilitated through the badging system

Samples of Badges



- Trainers and stable personnel shall enter the premises only through the northern gate.
- The building may be entered through level -1. Entrance shall only be permitted to those that have agreed upon a visit in prior with the relevant department they are visiting (Finance, Racing, GJC, etc.) and will have to wear a face mask at all times.
- It is proposed to remain outdoor wherever that is possible.

2. Morning track work

- Only those that are required for the operation of stables and the horses track work shall be permitted to enter.

For example:

- HRSA personnel
- GJC Technical Delegates
- Trainers and assistants
- Grooms
- Jockeys and track work riders
- Farrier / Dentist
- External partners / Contractors for the work on the track and other maintenance work at the facilities
- Accredited Journalists
- Owners or breeders will enter only following relevant permit

3. Entries – Declarations

- The horse entries and rider declarations will now be held at the **Winners' Lounge** (Grand Stand ground floor).
- Also, the possibility for remote procedures is under examination. The details shall be included in the new Entries Procedure that will be posted on the Operator's website.

- **Horse Entries:**

- **Only** the necessary personnel shall be present at the entries room: 2 or 3 HRSA employees and 2 GJC employees. All communication with the trainers, shall be made via telephone, P.A. system and the relevant TV screens. Trainers will only be able to enter the room, following an invitation by the Committee, only one (1) person at a time.

- The trainers shall enter the area one (1) at a time. The others will wait outside of the room, keeping a 2 meter distance and will only enter if it is absolutely necessary, following the permission of the area's security.
- The waiting area for the trainers will be the external award presentation area and the designated area within the ground floor (total area of 210 m²).
- Anyone that enters the room, will have to wear a face mask and alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be placed in obvious locations.
- o **Rider Declarations:**
 - **Only** the necessary personnel shall be present at the declarations room: 1 or 2 HRSA employees and 1 GJC employee. The jockeys or/and trainers shall enter the area one (1) at a time. The others will wait outside of the room, keeping a 2 meter distance at the designated area and will only enter following the permission of the area's security.
 - Anyone that enters the room, will have to wear a face mask and alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be placed in obvious locations.
 - Entry will only be permitted through the ground floor door, only to those coming for the Declarations procedure and only at the designated area.
 - It is highly recommended to make Rider Declarations via email at racingdpt@opap.gr

4. Race Meeting

a) Persons that hold a license to attend

- The horse races will be held **behind closed doors** and following strict measures for the hygiene and safety of all those involved, that will be revised based on international horse racing practices and the Greek Government's guidelines. Specifically:
- A list will be created by the Racing Dept. and provided to the Security Supervisor and the Clerk of Course (that has been appointed by the GJC as the person in charge of maintaining the Protocol) prior to the beginning of the horse races that will include specific categories of people for said race meeting. Specifically:
 1. Horse Races S.A.: Only the required personnel as well as the BoD members
 2. GJC: Only the required personnel in order to ensure the integrity of Greek horse races, as well as the BoD members
 3. Trainers and assistants

4. Grooms
 5. Riders
 6. External partners / Contractors for the work on the track and other maintenance work at the facilities
 7. Owners: Only those that have horses running and only one (1) owner per horse
 8. Director and crew for the live feed of horse races
 9. Journalists (1 per media)
 10. Photographer (1 per media)
- Badges will be allocated to all aforementioned categories in order to assist in the procedure of the entrance at Markopoulo Park.

It is highly recommended to all, to leave the Markopoulo Park facilities immediately after their work are completed or their horses have completed their participations

- The waiting area for the owners shall be the specially designed 4th floor (total area of 600m²) and the total number of attendees will not exceed 60 persons. The owners and professionals whose horses are competing at the next race, may attend the 1st floor areas (total area of 1160m²), or the 1st floor stands. **The use of a face mask is obligatory for the duration of the attendance at the racetrack.**

b) Changes in the procedures of horse races

- There will be no **award presentations**, and at the «connections'» **photo** of the winners 2 people will be able to attend (on the left and right of the winning horse) wearing face masks.
- Only the external area will be utilized for **interviews** (in cases of bad weather, the specially designed area on the ground floor shall be utilized) and the journalist will interview only one (1) person, while maintaining the required distances and wearing a mask.
- At the **paddock** area, there will be a strict entrance policy. Entry will only be permitted to: Trainers, Grooms, Riders, GJC Technical Delegates, Cameraman and HRSA employees. There will be no parade of horses in races with over 7 runners and all those entering the area, will have to wear masks
- At the **saddling** area, there will be a strict entrance policy. Entry will only be permitted to: Trainers, Assistant Trainers, Grooms, Vets, one (1) GJC

Technical Delegate and HRSA employees. A separate box will be used per trainer and all shared objects will be sanitized. Finally, all those entering the area will have to wear masks and use gloves.

- At the **Starting gate** all crew must wear masks and disposable gloves while keeping distances as much as possible. At the start area, there will be specially assigned bins, in order for the crew to dispose of the materials that are to be changed after each race.
- At the offices of the **Clerk of Course, the Racing Committee and the Stewards**, there will be a strict entrance police. Only one (1) person at a time will be allowed to enter for the purpose of examining an incident and the others will wait outside of the room until the procedure is completed by the previous person, keeping the necessary distances between them. Anyone attending or entering the aforementioned areas will have to wear masks.

Specifically, regarding the operation of the **Stewards office**, the incident examination will **only** be made via telephone. For this purpose, the owners and trainers will use the telephone line at the Clerk of Course's office and the riders will use the specially designed office at the new Changing Area. Each interested person, shall enter the Clerk of Course's office, one at a time, and use the desk's telephone for the relevant communication. After each use of the telephone, the device will be sanitized by the cleaning crew.

- For the period in which the horse races are held «behind closed doors», the audience will not be allowed to enter the premises and all parallel activities for the viewers are ceased (children's playground, ponies etc.)
- With regards to the catering services, the government's announcements will be followed
- The trainers' office (ground floor) shall remain closed.
- Only BoD members will be allowed to enter the GJC members room.
- At the scales area and the saddling area, there will be stations with hygienic materials (masks, gloves & alcoholic hand-sanitizing liquid) operated by an HRSA employee.
- After each race meeting, a specialized crew will disinfect by spraying the following areas:
 1. Riders changing rooms
 2. Scales area
 3. External area of scales

4. Medical room
5. Clerk of Course's office
6. Winners' Lounge
7. Racing Committee Office
8. Saddling area
9. Starting gate
10. Stewards Office
11. Restrooms (ground floor & 1st floor)
12. Sauna

c) Riders

- At the **scales** area, entry will only be permitted to the necessary HRSA personnel, as well as one (1) GJC Technical Delegate. The riders will enter the area one at a time, keeping the necessary two (2) meter distance between them, while waiting. Anyone entering the area will have to wear a face mask. The use of disposable gloves is mandatory for those in charge of handing out saddles and will have to be substituted after each race.
- The showers will be closed and their use will not be permitted, based on instructions by the National Public Health Organization, the Ministry of Sports and international practices.
- The sauna will not operate for the time being.
- The riders' **changing rooms** will remain closed and the riders will be able to get dressed and changed at the 1st floor (former offices of the Liquidator), in an area that is aired out sufficiently (total area of 500 m²), while keeping the 2m distances between riders. Furthermore, there is a specific area that will be used by the same rider every time. **Only** riders and their valets (one (1) valet / rider) will be permitted to enter the aforementioned area.
- The riders have been informed in detail by the facilities' doctors or nurse, regarding the necessary health and safety measures that they will have to follow.
- For a rider to participate in horse races, a COVID-19 obligatory examination will have to be made within 24 hours prior to the races, with a rapid antigen test, or 24-48 hours prior to the races with a PCR test by accredited labs or the National Public Health Organization.

On race day, Horse Races S.A., in cooperation with an accredited laboratory, will cover the cost of rapid tests for the riders. Specifically, the riders that are participating in said race day, will come into the racetrack at

a predetermined time prior to the races, and at least one and a half hour (1 ½) before, in order to be submitted to a COVID-19 examination.

- In case of a positive result in a Covid-19 rapid antigen test, the rider will have to be taken to a hospital, in order to also be submitted to a Real Time RT-PCR test and if that too is positive, the National Health Organization will provide the relevant directions.
- For the rider to return to their racing activities, this procedure will be followed:
 1. Asymptomatic riders with a lab confirmed COVID-19 infection, will return as follows:
 - Without an RT PCR nasopharyngeal specimen after 10 days from the first laboratory confirmation of a Covid-19 infection and if there are no symptoms that are similar to a Covid-19 infection
 - With two (2) RT PCR nasopharyngeal specimen tests, made at least with a difference of 24 hours in between and that cannot be made sooner than the 7th day from the first laboratory confirmation of a Covid-19 infection
 2. Riders that have symptoms and a lab confirmed COVID-19 infection, will return to their racing activities only after a cardiological examination and as follows:
 - Without an RT PCR nasopharyngeal specimen after 10 days from the first laboratory confirmation of a Covid-19 infection and if they have not had a fever for three (3) days without the use of antipyretics and if the symptoms appear to be reducing
 - With two (2) RT PCR nasopharyngeal specimen tests, made at least with a difference of 24 hours in between and that cannot be made sooner than the 7th day from the first laboratory confirmation of a Covid-19 infection and if they have not had a fever for three (3) days without the use of antipyretics and if the symptoms appear to be reducing
- Furthermore, the riders will be examined before entering the changing rooms, by the onsite doctors

- The use of mask is obligatory for the riders at the changing room and the scales area.
- The riders will not use face masks when riding
- The possibility to participate in Greek races for a Cypriot rider, will depend on the measures applied by the Greek government regarding travel.
- In any case, a rider or riders that come from abroad, are obligated to bring in a negative PCR Covid-19 test, up to 72 hours prior to the race meeting. These riders will follow the Protocol and its provisions and will have a separate area from the other riders that are based in Greece in the changing rooms.

5. Medical Room

- o Following the Greek Government's and the competent bodies (National Public Health Organization and Medical Association) announcements regarding Primary Care areas, HRSA and the Head Doctor have taken all necessary precautionary measures for the smooth operation of the racetrack's medical room. The **Medical Room** has been equipped with the appropriate material infrastructure in order to protect the personnel and incoming patients.

Specifically:

- Disinfectants that are easy to use have been supplied for the personnel.
- Small bottled waters, will be provided
- In the restrooms, signs have been placed mentioning that the toilet should be flushed after closing the seat cover.
- At the entrance a small carpet soaked in bleach solution followed by a dry cloth, for the patient to not trip causing an accident, has been placed.
- At the entry, hand sanitizer is available.
- After the entrance, a foot operated bin is located, for the patient to dispose of the sanitizing cloths that they might have used.
- The bin has an internal plastic bag with a sealing string. The cleaning crew will use elastic multiple use gloves that will reach their elbows.
- Before beginning operation or after finishing it, the medical room will be cleaned, disinfected (floor, chairs, tables, and frames) and aired out sufficiently.
- If the air condition is **necessary to use**, the blinds will have to face the ceiling in order to reduce the air's speed.

○ **Operation of Medical Room**

- At the entrance, the patient's temperature will be taken and if it exceeds 37 degrees Celsius, then the procedure will have to be repeated three more times (with the use of an armpit thermometer). If the temperature remains over 37 it is recommended to provide instructions and deal with the patient as a suspected case for Covid-19 and follow the National Public Health Organization's instructions. Specifically:
The patient shall be provided immediately with two simple surgical masks (worn together), transferred in the specially prepared isolated area on the ground floor (former riders sampling area), where there is a restroom, sink, liquid soap, paper towels, foot operated bin, face masks and gloved and the National Public Health Organization will be immediately informed.
- The patients will have to come in with masks and gloves that will be worn throughout their visit at the medical room.
- The Doctor and the personnel must wear at least surgical masks and gloves, in order to practice their duties.
- At the waiting area and the examination area, there will be disinfecting solutions with over 60% ethyl alcohol.
- The Doctor and personnel that come in contact with an under examination patient, other than the mask will have to wear disposable gloves and disposable gowns. The disposable materials will be thrown into the special bin that contains a bag that is sealed by string. The doctor shall clean and disinfect the equipment that was used on each patient every time (stethoscope, cardiograph, oximeter, ultrasounds etc.) or depending on the machine, clear gel will be placed, that will be disposed of after each examination. After the examination, the doctor and the personnel will wash their hands for 30 seconds with soap or the relevant solutions and then use disinfectant solutions with ether alcohol.
- After a patient leaves the medical office, all areas will be aired out sufficiently and the places where the patient was, will be disinfected.

6. Dealing with a suspected case

- **In case of a suspected case** (fever-cough-shortness of breath) of a person that is involved in the activities at Markopoulo Park (such as: trainer, rider, track work rider, groom or other involved person), **we inform immediately and only via**

telephone the on call Doctor on the Medical Office's number: 22990 81334 (Monday to Saturday: 06.00-11.00), or the Stables Management team on: 6975888026.

- In case of a confirmed COVID-19 case, the National Public Health Organization will trace all those that contacted the patient, in order for them to monitor their health for 14 days.

7. Other Procedures at the Markopoulo Park Facilities

- Informative posters regarding the COVID-19 symptoms, respiratory hygiene and hand hygiene will be posted at the entrance and in obvious areas of the Markopoulo Park facilities.
- Unauthorized personnel will be strictly forbidden to enter the **sampling area (anti-doping)**. The procedures of the area remain the same.
- The operation of the clinic and the stables will remain the same.
- A hygiene kit (gloves, masks and sanitizing gels) will be sent to all trainers for the needs of their stables and their personnel.
- All suppliers will be informed by the competent departments regarding the safety and hygiene measures at Markopoulo Park, in order for them to comply. Also the plan that they have applied to prevent spreading Coronavirus Covid-19 will be asked.
- The collection points for garbage and manure will be adequate in number and size and shall be emptied regularly.
- The cleaning crew will wear gloves and masks.

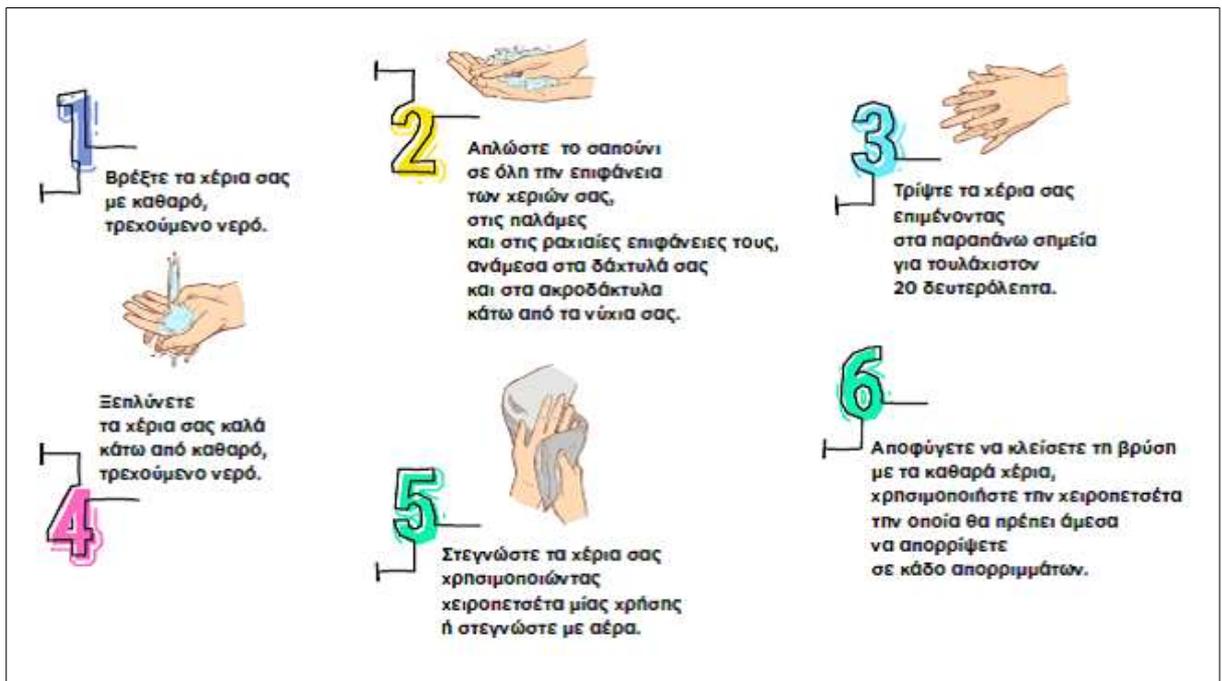
8. General Directions by the National Public Health Organization

«Hands, distances, masks. The three points that will keep us safe »

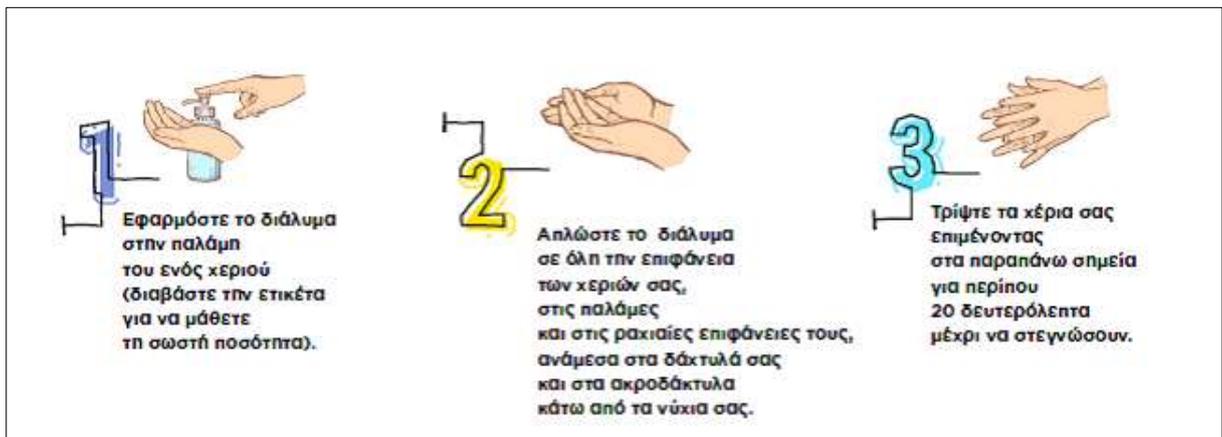
According to available scientific data on the Coronavirus infection, it is particularly important to systematically apply all measures to prevent spreading the new coronavirus, with emphasis on the following:

- **Wash our hands** frequently and thoroughly using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching our face (eyes, nose and mouth).

Follow these steps when washing your hands with soap and water:



Follow these steps when washing your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer:



- According to the directions the **2 meter physical distance** between people will have to be kept.
- Respiratory viruses, such as the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, can be transmitted through the droplets that exit our mouths when speaking, coughing or sneezing. **The use of a mask** contains the droplets and can reduce the dispersion to the community. The main aim of using a mask is to protect the people around you. The mask cannot be used to children under the age of 3 and people with respiratory problems or that cannot remove the mask without assistance.

Follow these steps, to properly put on a mask:

Βήματα για τη σωστή χρήση της μάσκας



1
Καθαρίστε τα χέρια σας με σαπούνι ή αντισηπτικό



2
Η μάσκα θα πρέπει να καλύπτει τη μύτη, το στόμα και το πηγούνι



3
Εφαρμόστε την “μπανέλα” στο πάνω μέρος, ώστε να εφαρμόσει στη μύτη



4
Αφαιρέστε την μάσκα πιάνοντας μόνο τα λαστιχάκια

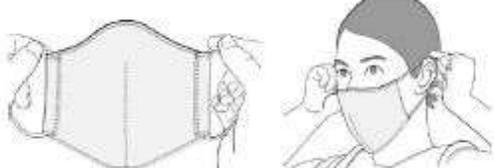


5
Πετάξτε την μάσκα σε ένα κάδο



6
Καθαρίστε τα χέρια σας με σαπούνι ή αντισηπτικό

Detailed directions to properly put on a cloth mask and a disposable mask:

Instructions on how to use Cloth Face Coverings (Re-usable Facemasks)	Instructions on how to use Single-Use Facemasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean your hands <u>before putting on</u> a mask, <u>before and after taking one off</u>. • Place the mask snugly against your face, so that it fully covers your nose, mouth, and chin (tightly secured to minimize any gaps between your face and the mask) • Refrain from touching your mask after placing it, otherwise clean your hands prior to and after contact • Remove your mask by touching only the facemask elastic bands, without touching the external side of the mask • Replace your face covering regularly with a new, clean one • Cloth face coverings are machine washable (spin cycle to a low rpm) or hand washable at 40-60°C • Iron your face covering and not the elastic bands thereof prior to any use, using your iron's steam function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean your hands <u>before putting on</u> a mask, <u>before and after taking one off</u>. • Place the mask snugly against your face, with its colored side facing outwards, so that it fully covers your nose, mouth, and chin (tightly secured to minimize any gaps between your face and the mask) • Press the metallic strip to better fit to your nose bridge • Avoid touching the mask after placing it, otherwise clean your hands prior to and after contact • Remove your mask by only touching the elastic bands, without touching the external side of the mask • CAUTION! Discard a single-use facemask using only a designated closed waste bin • Refrain from re-using a single-use facemask
	

- We cover our mouths when coughing or sneezing with a tissue that we throw out immediately. If that is not possible, then we cover our mouths with the inside of our elbows. Do not shake hands or hug one another.
- If we present mild symptoms for a respiratory infection (cough, runny nose, fever $\leq 37,6$ °C, sore throat) we must remain at home in self-isolation and monitor our health.
- If the symptoms become worse or if these mild symptoms remain for more than 5 days or we are in a vulnerable group (elderly, chronically ill of any age e.g. diabetes mellitus, heart problems and chronic respiratory issues, high blood pressure, immunodeficiency) then we immediately contact a doctor for evaluation.
- We avoid contacts with people that have symptoms of a respiratory infection (cough, runny nose, fever, sore throat).

For more information on the Coronavirus, call the 24hour phone line 1135 or visit the National Public Health Organization website: <https://eody.gov.gr>

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2nd Revision



9. Self-Isolation - Quarantine

Anyone that covers one or more of the following, should not come to the Markopoulo Park facilities:

- Has fever or persistent cough – follow the quarantine instructions by the National Public Health Organization.
- Is a person of a vulnerable group due to age, state of health, clinical condition or pregnancy.
- Lives with a person in quarantine or with someone that is in a vulnerable group.

Each trainer is responsible for their stable's staff and has the responsibility to inform HORSE RACES S.A. ([see relevant instructions in part 6 of the Guideline](#)) for a suspected or confirmed case.

Anyone that presents symptoms remains at home applying the existing instructions by the [National Public Health Organization](#) .