Considerations for Post-COVID Interim/Closure and Re-Opening
Focus: EAAT programming
Updated: April 17, 2020

The following are notes compiled from a variety of resources and should not be seen as a reflection of any one center's current or future policies, nor should this information be seen as professional or legal advice. Use your best judgment!

<u>INTERIM PLANNING NOTES</u>:
- Continuing horse care and general operations at during center closure with essential staff, following CDC guidelines and while state/county Stay-Home & Emergency Orders in place; adjust center policies as needed; provide applicable training to staff (incl. online off-site training as much as possible)
- Maintain closure of center to the general public as needed/required, including all volunteers and program participants
- Weekly instructor meetings via Zoom; remaining open-minded and flexible as to current and future plans; supporting instructors' home life needs and restrictions as applicable
- Outreach for youth participants, veterans participants, and volunteers
  - Weekly emails (check-in, newsletter formats, as applicable; include phone calls & texts as needed)
  - Establishing private Facebook Groups for volunteers and veterans
  - Developing master lists in Google Docs to populate weekly emails and FB Groups; brainstorm ideas in meetings; all staff have access to files to add ideas 24/7; review and sort as needed
  - Delegate posting and management tasks in FB Groups
  - Communicate realistic expectations for re-entry schedule w/honesty and transparency
  - Send 'letters from your horse' to participants (youth and adults) ASAP w/photo and story
  - Create and record 'Ask an Instructor' series, starting with instructors interviewing each other over Zoom and offering the recording to participants and volunteers; other ideas: questions and content requests from Vs & Ps
  - Prioritizing outreach as needed and providing multiple check-in opportunities; for veterans, using ALL avenues (social media, phone calls, texts, emails, letters, group Zoom chats)
  - Goals: retain volunteers and participants, provide education to retain skills AND continuing education above level needed for center roles as a bonus; connection and communication
- Develop, test and implement virtual class curriculum
  - Start with volunteers; opportunity for outreach (support, engagement, continuing ed) while providing opportunities to test out Zoom platform as feasible option for participants
  - Continue developing class material and test out formats (quiz first, then Zoom discussion; ASL class with handouts send 48 hours before; puzzles and word games to supplement curriculum)
  - Make brainstorming Google Doc with curriculum ideas for participants; one for youth, one for veterans; info for veterans and volunteers can be interchangeable/reused with small edits
  - Develop database of photos and short videos for future curriculum use
  - Providing passive curriculum/engagement opportunities for those not interested or able to participate in online activities and chats (printables, worksheets, outdoor activity ideas, video links, etc.)
  - Plan to sustain virtual curriculum and communication channels past point of re-opening to supplement in-person programming
- Engage with PATH Intl community online for ideas, collaboration, and continuing ed
  - Instructors to be as active as they're able to given current schedules and review ideas in weekly meetings
  - [Virtual Education Co-op](#)
  - [Intuitive Instructor Club](#)
  - [Therapeutic Riding Center Volunteer Managers Group](#)
  - [EAAT Virtual CEU Series](#)
  - [PATH Intl Region FB Groups](#)

- Staff to keep updated on all federal, state, and county guidelines and orders
- Review available information on re-opening for centers to inform center policies
  - CDC, WHO
  - State DOH, County, Police Dept
  - Industry-specific professional organizations, e.g. PATH Intl, EDCC, USDA, AAEP
- **Facility, Staff & Equipment**
  - Develop 'until further notice' cleaning and disinfecting procedures to be established prior re-opening; written & implemented, incl. signage
  - Determine the frequency and type of cleaning and disinfecting maintenance procedures after re-opening; who/what/where/when/why/how?
  - Train staff in new procedures; provide written policies and videos to include at-home training for all staff and in-person training for essential staff on site
  - New procedure considerations may include limiting the use of shared tack (once per day, or until able to be appropriately cleaned and disinfected); expanding the current safety guidelines for staff (minimizing no. of people allowed on property at one time, handwashing, sanitizing, PPE use) to include volunteers, participants, and visitors.
  - Use CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting porous and non-porous surfaces, including tack and equipment.
  - Consider limiting the use of any unnecessary porous tack and equipment if cleaning and disinfecting is a concern, and/or finding non-porous alternatives.
- **Equines**
  - Develop conditioning/training procedure for horses currently on break
  - Assess individual needs for each horse and a realistic plan for return to programming
  - Staggered program opening can help ease horses back into the level of activity and human contact encountered in programming, realizing their regular, pre-COVID workload may be less than ideal for current situation
  - Re-training, desensitizing, etc. as needed
- **Volunteers**
  - Assess readiness and comfortability to return through continued communication and outreach (established and maintained in the interim)
  - Provide virtual training prior to coming on property, esp. given the likelihood of new safety and emergency procedures
  - Provide in-person training and assessments prior to lesson commencement
  - Schedule work days ("fun days") where volunteers can participate and obtain volunteer hours outside of program days, and ideally before program re-start as a 'soft open', to further asses readiness and comfortability
- **Participants**
  - If health and safety concerns are still in place but government orders allow for re-opening with or without restrictions/guidelines, plan for a staggered program re-opening beginning with independent participants (i.e. can maintain social distancing rules during lessons), then develop the return plan for all participants; remain flexible and communicate the need for flexibility
  - Staggered re-opening may include unmounted lessons and virtual lessons, where applicable
  - Provide all new policies, new documentation, new requirements for health and safety to all participants as soon as available and applicable, to ensure clarity and set expectations for what we can and cannot provide/guarantee
  - New documentation may include physician's clearance/letter (TBD)
  - Follow HIPAA guidelines for virtual interactions
  - Follow ADA guidelines to ensure all individuals are treated equally. From the PATH Intl Standards for Certification and Accreditation Manual, 2018 edition, page 10 (excerpt below):

"ADA Considerations The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees access for people with disabilities to activities in public spaces. Most EAAT programs fit in this category. <u>A PATH Intl. Center may refuse access for safety concerns if it refuses access equally to all individuals with similar characteristics and if there is concern for the safety of personnel, volunteers or other participants as a result.</u> For example, a PATH Intl. Center may have a written policy to serve only those individuals weighing less than 200 lbs. with regard for the safety of the sidewalkers. These pre-determined written policies must be administered fairly with no exceptions. Reasons for not providing services, such as concern over the 'welfare of the equine' or the 'well-being of the rider,' are not sufficient to explain why a rider may be refused participation. A fairly administered, written policy with specific limitations is necessary. Additionally, a PATH Intl. Center may find that providing services safely would be a considerable financial hardship. If this is not the case, it is expected that the center would make reasonable accommodations to provide services. The precautions and contraindications are guidelines. They should not be used solely to justify admission or denial of a participant to the center.*"*
https://www.pathintl.org/images/pdf/standards-manual/2018/2018-path-intl-standards-complete-manual.pdf

- **Additional resources for interim and re-opening considerations**:
  - *WEBINAR*: Horse Biosecurity & Facility Sanitation - Joe Lyman, DVM, Published April 15, 2020 https://youtu.be/cuONqhwPlmQ (1:04:31) - Great information on how to create a biosecurity plan for any center and includes tack cleaning Q&A at end
  - *WEBINAR*: HOPE Beijing COVID Response, Amy Tripson - March 27, 2020 https://youtu.be/hymFRf_VIgg
  - *WEBINAR*: PATH Intl, How to Successfully Deliver Virtual Services - April 15, 2020 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcVcgleXGx4&feature=youtu.be
  - *WEBINAR*: PATH Intl, COVID-19 Impact: Navigating the Present and Planning for the Future for Your Center and Participants - April 7, 2020 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SPcubsoaMc&feature=youtu.be
  - *FACEBOOK LIVE*: Hoof Falls & Footfalls, Starting Back … Post-Crisis - April 16, 2020 https://www.facebook.com/hooffallsandfootfalls/videos/934554760294350/
  - Sample 'Social Media & Sick Policy' document in Document Template Database - Intuitive Instructor Club (Members Only - Free Trial Membership thru April 30, 2020) https://hooffallsandfootfalls.com/document-template-database/
  - COVID-19 Resources for Adaptive and Therapeutic Horseback Riding - Lessons in TR http://www.lessonsintr.com/2020/04/02/covid-19-resources-for-adaptive-and-therapeutic-horseback-riding/
  - Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Equestrian Facilities https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/Documents/PreventCOVIDinEquestrianFacilitiesAAEP_0.pdf
  - Biosecurity Basics - Katie Flynn / Winter 2020, PATH International STRIDES https://unitedhorsecoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/biosecurity-basics.pdf
  - List N: List of disinfectants for use with COVID-19 (aka SARS-CoV-2) https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2
  - Disinfection Protocol, EDCC - Equine Disease Communication Center, Excerpt from April 15, 2020 http://www.equinediseasecc.org/biosecurity/disinfection
  - EDCC Coronavirus Resources: http://equinediseasecc.org/coronavirus-resources
  - USEF Biosecurity Measures for Horses at Home and at Competitions https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/WkptpXp1g4c/biosecurity-measures-for-horses-at-home
  - American Horse Council Resources https://www.horsecouncil.org/covid-19-resouces/

- ○ AAEP Equine Facility Infographic
  https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/images/COVID_19andBarn_%20safety.jpg
- ○ Horses.Extension.org infographics & webinars - https://horses.extension.org/?s=covid
- ○ Developing a Personal Preparedness Plan for Equine Owners/Caretakers During a Pandemic
  https://horses.extension.org/covid-19-infographic-on-essential-and-nonessential-equine-care/
- ○ United Horse Coalition COVID-19 Resources: https://unitedhorsecoalition.org/covid-19-resources/
- ○ CDC Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html
- ○ CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html
- ○ CDC Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), including PPE info
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html
- ○ CDC Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html
- ○ (Australia) COVID-19: advice on providing medical clearance
  https://www.avant.org.au/Announcements/Coronavirus/
- ○ CDC Significantly Relaxes Essential Worker Return-To-Work Standards After COVID-19 Exposure 4.9.20
  https://www.fisherphillips.com/resources-alerts-cdc-significantly-relaxes-essential-worker-return-to
- ○ CDC Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html
- ○ COV.com Checklist for U.S. Employer Considerations
  https://www.cov.com/-/media/files/corporate/publications/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-checklist-for-us-employer-considerations.pdf