



PORT - LOUIS

MAURITIUS

THE MAURITIUS TURF CLUB

CHAMP DE MARS

COVID -19 PROTOCOLS FOR RACE DAY:

**For Thoroughbred Horse Racing in
Mauritius**

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The Mauritius Turf Club



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COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR RACE DAY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mauritius Turf Club (MTC) will always prioritise the safety, security and health of all stakeholders involved in horse racing in Mauritius. This is particularly relevant with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- With effect from 20th June 2020, until agreed differently by the Gambling Regulatory Authority, race meetings be staged without public attendance. In this respect, strict security access controls, strict hygiene and social distancing protocols have been put in place. The principal aim is to enable horse races to take place in a healthy and safe working environment that reduces the risk of contamination by the Coronavirus.
- This unprecedented move will be supported by the MTC following protocols as outlined below, for such time as may be required.

2. WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations from the World Health Organisation (WHO) website: <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf> will be enforced on race day.

2.1 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote regular and thorough hand washing by employees, contractors, and service providers. Places to wash hands with soap and water will be made available.
- Put sanitizing hand rub dispensers in prominent places. Make sure these dispensers are regularly refilled.
- Display posters promoting respiratory hygiene.
- Communication measures such as offering guidance from occupational health and safety officers, briefing at meetings and information sessions on keeping working environment clean.
- Ensure that facemasks and/or paper tissues are available at workplaces, for those who develop a runny nose or cough at work, along with closed bins for hygienically disposing of them.
- Ensure that all areas are clean and hygienic.
- Surfaces (e.g. desks and tables) and objects (e.g. telephones, keyboards) need to be wiped with disinfectant regularly.



- Arrange all seating with sufficient space between people and avoid the sharing of desks.

2.2 RESTRICTIONS ON RACEDAY

Access to the racecourse will be limited to Access Permit holders. The access permits will be delivered by the Police in consultation with the MTC and the GRA.

- All Access Permit Holders will have their temperature tested on arrival by MTC's medical team in the presence of a medical officer from the Ministry of Health. In case any temperature above 37.8 c is detected the concerned person will be denied access, placed in an isolated room until, on medical advice, safely transferred from the course to a health facility.
- Also, every person authorised to attend the race meeting will be required to fill a medical declaration form at the entrance to the racecourse stating that he or she does not have any symptoms linked to Covid -19.
- Every person attending a race meeting shall exercise social distancing, keeping at least 1.5m apart at all times and sign a form declaring that he or she will strictly adhere to the stipulated protocols.

2.3 MEETINGS

- All attendees at the race meeting are to provide their contact details: mobile telephone number, email and address where they are staying. They will be informed that their details will be shared with the public health authorities in case of any confirmed case of Covid-19. In case attendees do not agree to provide their contact details or refuse to consent for same to be shared with health authorities when the need arises, they will be denied access.
- All people attending a meeting in their professional capacity shall refrain from moving around unnecessarily and shall at all times, within reason, stay in their designated work area.

3 BEFORE THE RACE MEETING

All officials and staff required to attend the race meeting will be required to sign a declaration confirming that they have no symptoms of the Covid-19 virus and that they agree to abide by the rules and protocols that have been put in place.

3.1 STABLE PREMISES

- Trainers shall only enter licensed stable premises for which they have approval to stable horses. They shall not enter another trainer's premises.



- Trainers shall provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer situated at the entrance to each stable premises and at other key locations (e.g. feed room and tack room).
- Trainers and staff shall disinfect their hands both on entry and exit to the stable premises, and more regularly as required.
- Trainers and all persons present on MTC premises shall wear a protective mask at all times.
- All gear shall be disinfected as a horse leaves a yard and enters a yard during the day.
- Trainers will be made responsible for enforcing these measures upon staff and any other person entering their stables. They shall commit themselves in writing.
- Disinfectant foot baths (powdered copper carbonate) to be placed at strategic points to sanitise footwear.

3.2 TRANSPORT OF HORSES

- Where Trainers transport horses to the racecourse, they may only do so by using an approved horse transport company, or by using their own float or truck. Any movement will need to be approved in advance by the Stewards or Welfare Officer. Details of time of entry, number of horses, stable employee name/s and trainer name shall be recorded by the Welfare Officer in the “Movement Log”.
- Floats and trucks shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to use, with particular care given to those surfaces that are handled during loading and unloading and/or are “high traffic” areas, e.g. door handles, partitions.
- Once all horses have been removed, the float shall be disinfected (as above, by the use of a detergent solution as per the manufacturer’s instructions).
- Trainers are responsible for enforcing these measures upon private float drivers, staff and any other relevant person.
- An Approved Float Company will be responsible for enforcing these measures upon their staff and floats.

4 CONDUCT AT THE RACE MEETING

The Mauritius Turf Club, with assistance from the Police, will ensure that the general public shall not enter the racecourse or surrounding roads under any circumstances. This will be strictly monitored by the Mauritius Police Force at the entry points to the racecourse.



4.1 TRAINERS, GROOMS, RACEDAY STAFF/OFFICIALS

- All authorised officials will be encouraged to arrive at the race meeting showered, wearing clean/freshly laundered clothing. All gear and equipment to be used shall be similarly disinfected.
- The starting gates are to be disinfected before and after their use.
- Barrier Attendants shall disinfect handles on starting barriers prior to the commencement of each race meeting, sanitise their hands after each race, and wear gloves.
- Starters shall disinfect the start button hand grips, gear bags and any equipment used during the race meetings using alcohol wipes prior to the commencement of each race meeting and sanitize hands after each race.
- Farriers shall sanitize their hands after performing any farrier work.
- Trainers and grooms shall refrain from physical contact with each other and other participants, be they vets, farriers, stewards, barrier attendants, clerks of the course, grooms, trainers, sampling assistants or jockeys, unless absolutely necessary. The group identified above shall refrain from direct physical contact with any other people.
- Grooms will be required to walk their horses in such a way that they maintain social distancing of 1.5m from other people.
- Gathering in the Parade Ring should not exceed three persons. Only the Trainer, Assistant Trainer and Jockey of the horse concerned will be allowed to enter the Parade ring. These Persons should observe at least 1.5 metres social distance. In addition, there should be at 1.5 metres social distance between groups inside the Parade Ring.
- Photo -Taking by two photographers for the winning horse will be allowed. Only the Trainer or the Jockey will be allowed inside the parade ring for the Photo taking with the Winning Horse.
- Only the trainer will welcome the winning horse on the track. The horse will, however, be led by the groom.

4.2 JOCKEYS

- Jockeys shall arrive at the racecourse having washed their hair and shall wear clean, laundered clothes to work each day.
- Jockeys will be required to wear masks until entering the starting stalls prior to the race.
- On entry and exit to the Jockey room, and between rides, riders shall wash or disinfect their hands.
- Any equipment supplied and used by the rider (e.g. helmets, gloves and whips), shall be wiped over with disinfectant before and after each race.



- Every rider will be allocated a sanitised area to prepare for his ride in the Jockey room. This area will not be shared with any other rider. No sharing of equipment will be permitted.
- At the completion of a rider's engagements for the day, he shall shower after putting all soiled clothing in a plastic bag (to be supplied by the trainer) and clean and disinfect all gear (helmet, whip, saddle, packing and riding boots).
- All riders shall practice social distancing including avoiding direct personal contact at all times (e.g. shaking hands, kissing, hugging) with anybody (including the trainer and groom), maintaining 1.5 metres from any other person where practicable and the one person per 4 square metre rule when indoors.

Racehorse owners will not be permitted to attend the race meeting.

5 PERMITTED ATTENDEES PER RACE MEETING: [275]

5.1 Licensed Jockeys engaged to compete at the meeting [16]

5.2 Licensed trainers and Grooms with runners engaged at the meeting [120]

- One groom per horse will be allowed; [90 persons]
- Only a Trainer/Assistant Trainer and one assistant allowed [30 persons]

5.3 GRA Officials [6]

5.4 MTC Race day officials and staff [83]

- Three racing stewards, an inquiry reporter and one technician; [5 persons]
- Photo finish operators; [3 persons]
- A team of handlers; [14 persons]
- Officials; [14 persons]
- Administrators; [4 persons]
- Veterinary Surgeons; [3 persons]
- Medical and paramedical persons; [10 persons]
- Cleaning staff - sweepers and ablution attendants; [4 persons]
- Security staff to monitor access points [10]
- Track maintenance staff [16]

5.5 TV Production [23]

- Cameramen [11]
- Presenters/commentators [5]
- Studio Staff [7]



5.6 Media [21]

The following members of the press will be permitted to attend race days

- LExpress Turf x 2
- Turf & Foot x 2
- Defi Turf x 2
- Turf Magazine x 2.
- Racetime x 2
- 1 x photographer per publication.
- 1 x freelance photographer.

1 representative from each of the following radio stations can attend race days.

- MBC x 1
- Radio 1 x 1
- Radio Plus x 1
- Top FM x 1
- Wazaa FM x 1
- Planet FM x 1

5.7 Sweepstakes [7]

5.8 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON RACEDAY

- Roads surrounding the Champ de Mars will be closed off for the duration of the meeting with access controlled by the Police;
- Access to the racecourse will be restricted to 3 entry points only, 2 on Shakespeare Street and 1 on Dr Eugène Laurent Street. At these entry points, sanitisers will be provided.
- No food and beverages will be catered for on course, persons and staff to bring their own.
- No betting will be permitted on course.
- There will be 2 ambulances on duty.
- Any person failing to comply with the protocols set out in this document and/or the broader protocols set out by the MTC regarding Covid-19 will be subject to penalty by the Racing Stewards pursuant to their powers under the MTC Rules of Racing.

5.9 SPECIMEN COLLECTION

- Pre-race and post-race specimen collection to be undertaken by essential staff. No public or press. Security watchmen will escort horses from the holding area to their respective yards.



6.0 AFTER THE RACE MEETING.

- Retain the names and contact details of all attendees for at least one month. This will help public health authorities trace people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 if one or more attendees become ill shortly after the event.
- If someone at the meeting was isolated as a suspected COVID-19 case, the information will be communicated by the MTC to all participants. They will be informed of what further steps to take such as monitoring themselves for symptoms for 14 days and taking their temperature twice a day.
- If they develop even a mild cough or low-grade fever (i.e. a temperature of 37.3 C or more) they should stay at home and self-isolate. This means avoiding close contact (1 meter or nearer) with other people, including family members. They should also telephone their healthcare provider or the public health authorities, giving them details of their recent itinerary and symptoms.

7. CONCLUSION

The MTC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Gambling Regulatory Authority and the Mauritius Police Force, will do everything within its power to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and ensure the health and safety of all personnel attending the race meeting.