

February 11, 2021

RE: EXEMPTION REQUEST– ORDER 02-2021 – EQUESTRIAN EXERCISE

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta, a public health emergency was declared in the Province of Alberta on November 24, 2020 pursuant to section 52.1 of the *Public Health Act* of Alberta.

Further to that declaration of a public health emergency the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), pursuant to her authority under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made CMOH Order 02-2021 (the Order) that identified businesses or entities allowed to offer goods and services at locations accessible to the public as well as any other steps to lessen the impact of a public health emergency when offering those goods or services.

The purpose of the Order is to help protect Albertans from the exposure to and spread of COVID-19 by prohibiting persons from attending certain locations for certain periods of time and subjecting such persons to any conditions that the CMOH considers appropriate including prohibiting persons from engaging in activities that could transmit an infectious agent and which the CMOH considers necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency. In addition setting such conditions as the CMOH considers appropriate or necessary on businesses and entities to lessen the impact of the public health emergency when those business or entities are offering goods or services to the public.

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Order the CMOH may exempt in writing persons or classes of persons from the operation of the Order.

The Office of CMOH has received requests to exempt equestrian riders for the purpose of allowing them to engage in solo equestrian exercise necessary to maintain an animal's health. The request states that public health and safety measures will be required and that individuals will need to schedule a time to limit the number of horses in a riding arenas at one time.

Currently equestrian complexes where such equestrian exercise riding occurs are permitted to allow group physical activity pursuant to Section 9 of Appendix A but persons in these facilities are not permitted to engage in solo riding or exercise pursuant to Section 47 of the Order and pursuant to Section 3 of Appendix A of the Order these facilities are not permitted to be open to the public.

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Order I am satisfied that an exemption from Section 47 of the Order be granted to the following persons upon the following conditions:

- I. Subject to the conditions in paragraphs II and III, persons in equestrian complexes, that are businesses or entities that provide a location for a group physical activity to occur as described in section 9 of Appendix A of the Order, where such persons are engaged in providing solo equestrian exercise for horses stabled or normally exercised within that equestrian complex;
- II. For further clarity, this exemption does not permit the persons or the equestrian complexes described in paragraph I from engaging in activities that are not permitted elsewhere in the Order - specifically those activities described under section 2 of Appendix A of the Order such as sporting events and competitions;
- III. The equestrian complexes that are businesses or entities that provide stable facilities, and indoor and/or outdoor horse riding arena areas for the persons described in paragraph I shall follow any further public health conditions or requirements that relate to public health and safety that may be provided in writing from time to time by Alberta Health or Alberta Health Services.

Although the businesses and entities identified above are exempt per Section 74 of the Order, all persons who are identified in this exemption are subject to the appropriate hygiene, masking and other barriers or PPE as appropriate to the activity, distancing of a minimum of two metres from any other persons, and all other measures identified by public health authorities to protect these persons and other Albertans from further transmission of COVID-19.

The exemption may be terminated or modified by the CMOH in writing without notice and for any reason as determined by the CMOH.

This exemption comes into effect on February 11, 2021 and terminates as specified in Schedule A.

We trust this is satisfactory

Yours Sincerely



Deena Hinshaw
Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta