



# Defining Essential Equine Care During a Pandemic

Essential equine care should be evaluated in terms of the **actions and activities that must happen during the pandemic to ensure animal welfare standards are met.**

Below are examples of essential and nonessential equine care actions and activities.

## ESSENTIAL

- ✓ Providing **FOOD AND WATER**
- ✓ Practicing **PROPER HANDLING**
- ✓ Implementing appropriate **HEALTH CARE\***
- ✓ Providing an **APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT** for their use and protection from harmful weather conditions
- ✓ **MINIMIZING FEAR, PAIN, STRESS, AND SUFFERING**

\*As designated by an equine veterinarian.  
Consult your vet regarding specific questions about your horse's essential health care.

## NONESSENTIAL

- ✗ **RIDING** lessons, programs, or camps and any general or recreational riding
- ✗ **MEETINGS** for clubs or organizations
- ✗ **VISITS TO AN EQUINE FACILITY** by:  
1) anyone besides an essential employee, or 2) a boarder not explicitly responsible for the daily essential care of a horse
- ✗ Anything that **COULD BE PUSHED TO A LATER DATE** without causing undue fear, pain, stress, or suffering