



Side walking from 21 June 2021

The Road to Restart Working Group have listened to the challenges faced by our groups and riders, have looked at the evidence, including the increasing vaccination rate and can now confirm that riders that need specific assistance in RDA sessions may be permitted to have **two** side walkers during sessions from next Monday, 21 June across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and in Level 0 and 1 areas in Scotland. These side walkers do not have to be from the rider's household or bubble.

As a reminder, if any volunteers are supporting any participants outside their household/ bubble they must be appropriately trained and with a green card. The COVID-19 basic training record is only for household/bubble members supporting the rider they are in a household/bubble with.

Hand sanitisation for the side walkers and the leader must take place prior to and after the session and both side walkers must wear a face covering at all times when side walking. The leader must look away at all times from both side walkers and the rider at all times and may also consider wearing a face covering as further mitigation. The side walkers and leader should aim to be as socially distanced as possible whilst ensuring the rider is supported safely at all times. All activities should take place outdoors or in a well-ventilated covered arena.

The Group as well as all volunteers and participants involved should be comfortable with what they are being asked to do at all times. Even though we cannot require our volunteers to be double vaccinated, or even ask their vaccination status, it is likely that those who will feel most comfortable side walking will be those who have the greatest level of protection.

Prior to 21 June

Prior to 21 June **one** side walker from outside the rider's household/ bubble is permitted to support the rider on the **opposite** side of the equine to the leader from late May (**17 May in England and Wales and in Levels 1 and 2 areas in Scotland and 24 May in Northern Ireland**).

The side walker and leader must be socially distanced by at least 1 m at all times. They both must practice good hand hygiene and the side walker must wear a face covering over nose and mouth whilst in the session. The leader must either look away from the rider and side walker at all times or wear a face covering, or can choose to do both.

If the rider needs **two** side walkers then these both must come from the rider's household/ bubble and unless the leader is from the same household, then the leader must face away from the rider and side walkers at all times or they must wear a face covering. The leader and the side walker on the same side must also aim to be socially distanced as much as possible. This applies to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Two side walkers from outside the rider's household/ bubble are permitted on the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey where physical distancing restrictions are no longer in force.