



Quantum Leap Farm

★ Equine-Assisted Therapies ★

COVID-19 RE-OPENING POLICIES 2020

Events surrounding the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continue to evolve, and as always the health and safety of our Quantum family is our top priority. We also feel responsible to do the right thing for our local community and virus containment efforts. Therefore we are closely monitoring local, state and federal public health authorities' recommendations with regard to public safety, and will remain flexible to take appropriate actions.

One of the biggest challenges we face is managing the expectations of our participants, volunteers and donors, especially while many Florida businesses re-open. **Because we work with a vulnerable population, many of whom are immune-compromised, we are being especially careful to make operational adaptations that strictly conform with current public health guidelines to minimize risk of exposure.**

- We began our Phase 2 re-opening as of Monday 9/21/2020, as follows:
- **Phase 2:**
 - All people on property will be asked to sign a COVID-19 Liability waiver, bring a mask and will be required to wash their hands upon arrival.
 - Family members and caregivers will have an option to stay in their cars, or observe from the patio (maximum of two people) provided they wash their hands, wear masks and consent to screening procedures (temperature check, confirmation of health status, and other items as we deem necessary).
 - **We are now scheduling participants who may be somewhat immune-compromised** and who can demonstrate the willingness and ability to perform requirements outlined below:
 - Provide informed consent for themselves, or that of their legal guardian.
 - Wear a mask while on property.
 - Consent to being screened before participation in equine-assisted therapy activities (temperature check, confirmation of health status, and other items as we deem necessary – see attached).
 - Maintain safe social distancing practices.
 - Wash hands before and after participation in equine-assisted therapy activities.
 - **Ride safely without side-walkers, and mount with minimal assistance.**
 - We may schedule participants in **semi-private sessions**, one or two per hour to minimize the number of people on the property and in the arena at any one time. Participants will arrive, be screened, mount, ride, dismount and depart within that one hour time frame. Actual mounted time (roughly 30-40 minutes), will vary depending on each participant.
 - Participants/caregivers will stay within the patio and arena only. The barn will be restricted to volunteers and staff only.

- We will schedule **six to eight volunteers** each day of program operations as needed. At least three volunteers will help in the barn every hour. At least two of the volunteers will be experienced horse leaders. Leaders will alternate between the barn and arena every-other hour of riding sessions.
 - Upon arrival, volunteers will report to the Barn Manager on duty and undergo screening procedures (temperature check, confirmation of health status, and other items as we deem necessary).
 - **Masks will be required in the arena**, and employees and volunteers must wash their hands before and after coming in contact with participants. All people working in the arena will observe safe social distancing practices and minimize actual contact with participants, caregivers and/or family members to the extent possible while maintaining the safety of our riders.
 - **Masks will not be required in the barn** provided employees and volunteers practice safe social distancing and handwashing practices.
 - **The office will remain locked during program operations.** Anyone requiring access may knock on the door. Office staff will attend to them while maintaining safe social distancing and handwashing practices before and after contact. The wearing of masks in the office is up to the discretion of each employee, but is required while interacting with visitors.
 - Office staff will continue to work remotely to the extent possible.
 - **Instructors will sanitize high touch surfaces (bathrooms, gates, door handles, etcetera) in the arena at the conclusion of morning sessions. PM Barn Managers and office staff will sanitize nightly before leaving.**
- **Phase 3:** Phase 3 practices will look somewhat like Phases 1 & 2. Additionally, in Phase 3 we will begin scheduling group participants for EASE sessions. We expect that over time Phases 1 and 2 will inform us as to the practices we ultimately adopt in Phase 3, but preliminary policies are as follows:
 - **We will schedule participants who may not tolerate wearing a mask, and who may or may not require side-walkers.** We will continue scheduling participants who may be somewhat immune-compromised, but likely not in the same hour.
 - We may elect to schedule participants in **semi-private and/or group sessions. EASE Program group participants and retreat attendees will be required to wear masks and practice safe social distancing.**
 - We will schedule **six to twelve volunteers** each day of program operations as needed. At least four volunteers will help in the barn every hour. Two to four of the volunteers will be experienced horse leaders.
 - **Masks will be required in the arena, but only when immune-compromised participants are present.**
 - PM Barn Managers and office staff will sanitize high touch surfaces **nightly** before leaving.
 - **Phase 4:** We anticipate Phase 4 being a return to pre-COVID-19 pandemic practices, or something similar. Again, the preceding phases will inform the practices we adopt going forward, depending on pandemic status and future events. **Family Fun Days may resume in Phase 4, but likely not before.**

We remain committed to the well-being of the Tampa Bay community, and that of our beloved Quantum family. As always, please feel free to contact us if you have questions related to our COVID-19 response, or re-opening policies/procedures, Please anticipate we'll be reaching out to stay connected with you, and to provide updates as they become relevant.

Edie E Dopking, PhD

Founder & Executive Director

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