

Greyhound Racing: Prevention Measures.

Updated Mon 11 May 2020

Glossary of Acronyms:

LPs – Licensed Persons under the Rules of Greyhound Racing.

PCBU – Persons conducting Business or Undertaking, which for the purposes of Greyhound Racing is the Greyhound Racing Club conducting the Race Meeting or Trials.

MOH – Ministry of Health

Introduction – Don't Put the Sacrifice of Lockdown at Risk

Please be very aware that the move from lockdown at Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 3 is NOT a return to business as usual. The presence of the COVID-19 virus remains a serious threat within New Zealand and in order to minimise the risk of spreading the virus we must all plan ahead and follow those plans.

Routine matters like filling up with petrol, or getting food to take to the racetrack you should do at your local petrol station and local supermarket. If there is a COVID-19 outbreak that involves contact tracing visitors to a supermarket, you're four times more likely to be involved if you've shopped at four supermarkets.

As an industry, we must continue to prove that we can keep all participants safe and eliminate, or mitigate to the greatest possible extent, the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Considerations taken in the drafting of this Directive

- Guidance provided by WorkSafe and requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.
- The equivalent regulations prevailing in Australian Greyhound Racing where racing has continued to operate whilst government lockdowns apply.

Summary of this Directive

The core principle behind this Directive is to protect the health and safety of all LPs & workers required to perform duties during the COVID-19 crisis, including related health and safety impacts on operations related to operating under a COVID-19 environment, as well as protecting the wider New Zealand population from transmission and spread of the virus.

Another key principle is to maintain the WorkSafe three pillars of good work throughout all operations: leadership, risk management, and worker engagement.

- **Leadership:** The expectations of the community, staff and regulators is that all workplaces will meet the highest possible standards and that managers, LPs and individual staff actively manage adherence to the safety measures and expect all involved to demonstrate leadership and appropriate self-supervision to ensure that these standards are met and that they are looking out for the health and safety of their colleagues and community while at work.
- **Elimination:** Greyhound Clubs must eliminate transmission risks where possible. Where it is not possible, those Clubs must substitute work practices or provide as high a level of control as possible. We expect that you will maintain, or create new, practices that meet or exceed the latest Ministry of Health guidelines.

Engagement: You will develop more effective plans and practices that staff will follow if you involve your people in their development. This is also likely to give your people more confidence that they will be safe at work, and are doing their bit to keep their communities safe. Greyhound Clubs must engage with LPs and employees (as individuals or representatives) in any decision making for changes to work practices. Any such consultation and/or feedback should be an ongoing process so that workplaces are able to improve practices and learn lessons to continuously improve management and safety

This Directive contains minimum measures that are necessary to mitigate or eliminate the risk of passing on the COVID-19 virus at work. These include:

- supporting people with flu-like symptoms to self-isolate;
- ensuring physical distancing;
- regular disinfecting of surfaces;
- maintaining good hygiene, particularly hand hygiene and good cough/sneeze etiquette; and
- keeping records to facilitate contact tracing.

GRNZ DIRECTIVE FOR COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 3

1. Before LPs & workers come to a Racetrack.

1.1. Everyone who is involved in Greyhound Racing needs to play a part in minimising the risk of transmission of COVID-19. All Greyhound Clubs need to create a plan to achieve the requirements of this standard focussing on managing work to maintain the health of persons engaging in Greyhound Racing. LPs and workers have to follow this plan so it is important that they should be involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the plan.

1.2. Planning and implementing COVID-19 protocols must involve workplace Health and Safety representation from workers. You are required to communicate and engage with your LPs & workers regularly around how to safely carry out work in a COVID19 environment.

1.3. Before anyone enters a racetrack, the plan and work protocols must be communicated effectively to LPs & workers by the Greyhound Club. Language and culture requirements are to be taken into account to ensure information is understandable for all persons involved in the work.

1.4. The plan and work protocols must take into account the possibility that the site or location where Greyhound Racing activity is to take place may have become unsafe while inactive during lockdown periods. Before any activity is recommenced the PCBU must ensure that all hazards have been reviewed and appropriately controlled before work activity is commenced after lockdown. This includes LPs & workers understanding of the operations and fit for purpose equipment, material and environmental condition checking.

1.5. In managing COVID-19 risk businesses the Health and Safety at Work (General Risk& Workplace Management) Regulations 2016 apply including adhering to the hierarchy of controls when making decisions on how best to protect persons from COVID-19 transmission.

1.6. Persons entering and exiting a racetrack are to be registered to assist tracking of contact in case of COVID-19 infection.

1.7. Movement on racetracks is to be planned and managed to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

1.8. Greyhound Clubs must have a process to ensure LPs and employees are fit for duty by confirming their health status.

1.9. PCBUs must insist that anyone who is not feeling well remains at home. MOH ([link here](#)) provides guidelines in regard to vulnerable persons. They must be advised to remain at home or to take extra precautions when engaging in any work activity at a racetrack.

1.10. PCBUs are required to have an understanding of and plan for how LPs & workers will travel applying the key principals, physical distancing, contact tracing, and hygiene ([link here](#)) to and from the racetrack in order to minimise transmission of COVID-19. Travel should be limited to within a region or to a neighbouring region ([link here](#)).

2. Racetrack entry or commencement of activity

2.1. You are to provide a means of evaluating that LPs & workers are fit for duty as they enter site or start Greyhound Racing related activity – this should follow MOH guidelines ([link here](#)) for detection of COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors.

2.2. LPs & workers must be able to sanitise their hands before starting work at their work location as per MOH guidelines.

2.3. Arrangements are to be made by the PCBU for the safe use of PPE designed to minimise COVID-19 transmission including, cleaning, training in use, and disposal in line with MOH guidelines ([link here](#)) for Greyhound Racing Related Activity.

2.4. LPs & workers are to be given guidance by the person controlling the work location on how to decontaminate themselves and their clothing when returning to their home living arrangements and or accessing other services where they may be in contact with the public (including retailers and medical services).

2.5. All LPs & workers are to be registered as they enter a racetrack and records kept by the person controlling the racetrack.

3. Site Operations

3.1. Each racetrack requires a Compliance Support Officer agreed by the Greyhound Club to monitor and manage COVID-19 site protocols.

3.2. Only LPs & workers deemed necessary to carry out physical works, supervise work, or conduct work in order to meet regulatory requirements will physically attend a racetrack. All LPs & workers who are not required to be present on at a racetrack, must remain home. Visitors to the racetrack are to be discouraged and will be restricted to the minimum necessary.

3.3. All LPs & workers must exercise the recommended personal health practices for reducing the risk of transmission as identified by the MOH ([link here](#)). Education of these practices will be undertaken by the person controlling the racetrack.

3.4. All racetracks are to implement additional cleaning measures of common areas as recommended by the MOH ([link here](#)).

3.5. Additional sanitary measures are to be implemented at each racetrack, including but not limited to, hand washing protocols, hand sanitizer stations, and provision of disinfectant wiping products.

- Avoid close contact with people with cold or flu-like illnesses.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing.
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with water and soap and dry them thoroughly:
 - before eating or handling food
 - after using the toilet
 - after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose or wiping children's noses
 - after caring for sick people.

3.6. Bathrooms and portable/mobile toilet facilities will require a cleaning schedule that minimises the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

3.7. Racetracks must be closed to the public.

3.8. Where practicable, Greyhound Racing sites are to be separated into zones in order to keep different crews/trades physically separated at all times (some work locations may need to apply alternative methods to zoning to achieve work group separation).

3.9. Work that requires close personal proximity between workers (e.g. pre-race vet inspection, weighing, boxing, catching, hose-down) must be planned and managed to establish a safe system of work. These will be detailed in the Safe Work Site plan for each racetrack and will involve patience and discipline to maintain physical distancing during the queue for inspection, weighing and hosing and new spaced formations for boxing. Risk of COVID19 transmission will be included in risk assessments and the highest level of control must be considered and properly implemented.

3.10. Work vehicles that are shared by multiple persons to be sanitised after each journey by different persons (travellers and/or driver) by thorough cleansing of all internal surfaces and external handles and touch points.

3.11. Deliveries to the racetrack should be avoided on days when racing is taking place. If they must take place the items should be delivered to outside the racetrack gate and then collected and disinfected by the recipient.

3.12. Physical Distancing - "In an uncontrolled environment, such as interactions between the members of the public, a distance of 2 metres remains appropriate.

However a workplace is a controlled environment and this means that PCBUs are able to manage risks in other ways. They may for example institute engineering controls such as screens or personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves. With these types of measures, it is possible to manage the risk sufficiently to allow smaller safe distances such as 1 metre (or even smaller such as nurses caring for patients). Where effective controls cannot be implemented, 2 metres may remain the safest distance for workplaces. ([Physical Distancing Link Here](#))

In all cases, obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 to ensure the health and safety of workers and other people in the workplace so far as is reasonably practicable will apply. Regardless of the distance adopted, PCBUs need to take steps to mitigate risks (including thinking about measures such as disinfecting surfaces and practices to ensure workers don't come to work sick)."

4. Leaving Site or Place of Work

4.1. All persons must be checked out of a racetrack as they leave and records kept by the PCBU.

4.2. For each site and work location commonly used areas and surfaces where LPs & workers may have come in contact with are to be cleaned and sanitised at the end of the working day or at the end of each shift.

4.3. All waste and disposable PPE must be securely and safely disposed of. Appropriate controls and consideration must be made to those handling contaminated (or potentially contaminated) waste products.

5. Emergency Management

5.1. PCBUs must ensure that LPs & workers understand that any individual exhibiting flu-like symptoms such as fever, coughing, or congestion must:

- Not come to a racetrack;
- Stay at home and self-isolate as directed by MOH.

5.2. Persons who have been identified as having potentially been exposed to the virus must follow MOH advice and must not enter or remain at a racetrack.

5.3. Any racetrack, or site that has had an LP or worker with a positive COVID-19 diagnoses must prevent any person entering the racetrack or conducting work activities and must complete the following:

- Contact the MOH COVID-19 health line;
- Gather records of all persons who have been on site or involved with the person who has tested positive within the past four weeks;
- Gather information to identify those who have worked at the location or shared machinery, plant, materials or equipment with that person.
- Be ready to present the information to the appropriate authorities;
- Inform the wider workforce of the situation while protecting the privacy of the individual where practicable so that further health monitoring can take place of potential contacts with the person;
- Clean and sanitise all site surfaces and equipment; and
- Follow any other directions from MOH ([link here](#))