



Considerations for Livestock Judging Contests

As some plan to hold livestock judging events, the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association (NCLCA) offers the following considerations for enhancing protection of individuals and preventing the spread of COVID-19. Event planners and officials can determine, in collaboration with state and local health officials, whether and how to implement these considerations, making adjustments to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community. Because COVID-19 virus circulation varies in communities, these considerations are meant to supplement, not replace any state or local and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which gatherings must comply. Organizers should continue to assess, based on current conditions, whether to postpone, cancel, or significantly reduce the number of attendees for gatherings.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

- **Required pre-registration** - Coaches will receive a packet with contestant information at check-in.
 - Require coaches to pre-register their teams and individuals. On contest day, only the coach can pick up the team packet. We request contestants to stay in their vehicles until contest coordinators are ready to place contestants in groups (where social distancing models are set up).
 - Devise participant filters and limitations at pre-registration that will reduce the number of contestants per school/county attending, which will aid in creating contest groups that can adhere to social distancing guidelines.
 - Face coverings are required by coaches during check-in. Hand sanitizer should be available. There should be no shared pencils. New pencils should be provided at team packet pick-up. Sanitation

wipes should be provided at the team packet pick-up for regular sanitizing of the area.

- **Advise all staff and anyone visiting the event, including exhibitors, visitors, judges, and veterinarians, to stay home if they are [sick](#).**
 - Conduct health checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or symptom checking) of staff. If feasible, also check health status of attendees, in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.

- **Increase distance and limit the duration of contact between anyone attending the event.**
 - Provide additional space to judge each class to make sure contestants can socially distance during the up-close inspection with fewer contestants doing this at the same time.
 - Hand sanitizer should be available at lamb racks, and racks should be modified to have animals 6 feet apart.
 - Halter classes should be staged to require all livestock to be presented to be a minimum of 6 feet apart.
 - Oral reasons rooms should be set-up to allow a minimum of 6' or more between contestants and the official judge. Plexiglass dividers should be placed between contestants and judge.
 - Manage the reasons room to reduce the number of contestants "on deck" to present oral reasons. Depending on the venue, the recommendation should be no more than 2-3 contestants per row to be allowed to leave the reasons holding room at a time to adhere to social distancing protocols.

- **Limit the number of people entering the facility.**
 - Restrict attendance to contestants, judges, staff, and coaches.
 - Decrease high-traffic areas by staggering use of common areas such as bathrooms, concession areas, bleachers, and animal viewing areas.

- **Require the use of [masks](#).**
 - Masks will be required during contests. Contestants should provide their own face covering. Contest organizers should have a supply of masks available to participants, if needed.
 - Masks can be removed when presenting oral reasons and when eating lunch when contestants are staged in socially distanced seating areas.

- **Move events scheduled for indoors** to an open-air setting, outdoors if weather permits.

- **Use markings and signs** to remind contestants, judges, staff, and coaches to practice social distancing, wear masks in public spaces (especially when staying 6 feet apart may be difficult), wash their hands, and follow other safety measures. Consider adding signs that illustrate the capacity of buildings, including bathrooms, and take steps to control the number of people entering and exiting facilities.

- **Encourage hand hygiene by setting up hand sanitation stations** at the entrance and within the premises so contestants, judges, staff, and coaches can [sanitize their hands](#).
 - Gloves should be used by individuals working the registration table.
 - Hand sanitizer should be available during check-in, at the announcer's stand, at the lambs racks, in the tabulation room and in oral reasons rooms, as well as when people asked for hand sanitizer.
 - Gloves and no-touch boxes should be used by group leaders and staff when collecting judging cards or Scantron answer sheets.
 - Contestants must provide their own writing utensils.

- **[Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces](#)** such as door handles/gates (including stall doors in bathrooms).

- **Implement strategies to maintain safe food and beverage service** and promote behaviors that reduce the spread of the virus:
 - Encourage [frequent hand washing](#), by setting up hand sanitizer stations near food concession areas.
 - Eliminate communal high-touch items (e.g., condiments, reach-in coolers, straw dispensers, some types of trash containers, etc.).
 - Completely enclosed box meals should be provided.
 - Bottled water should be available to contestants. Water bottles should be dispersed through the arena area at pick up stations during the contest and in the oral reasons staging areas.

- **Results and Awards**
 - Results and awards should take place in a venue large enough that contestants, coaches, and staff can properly social distance.
 - Awards ceremonies should be expedited and buffet style meals should not be provided.
 - Awards should be placed on a table and wiped with a disinfecting cloth after being displayed. Recipients will pick-up on their own award during the ceremony.
 - If social distancing is not achievable, awards ceremony should consider a virtual event or cancelation.
 - Results should be posted online or emailed to teams.

- **Isolate and transport people who become sick.**
 - Immediately separate contestants, judges, staff, and coaches who begin showing COVID-19 [symptoms](#).
 - People who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility, depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow [CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others](#) who are sick.