



## MBHT Covid-19 Policy - Updated DECEMBER 2020

Here at MBHT we are committed to providing a safe environment for all our staff and customers while also making sure your experience is fun.

As an outdoor non contact sport where you are always at least 2 meters away from the person closest to you, we believe the risk of infection from our normal horse trekking activities to be very small and in line with the government advice, ensuring we minimise risk of infection and provide a safe environment to our staff and customers.

We understand that this time is difficult for many and that this pandemic can change situations suddenly. Please bear with us while we work tirelessly to make sure we are staying as updated as possible and inform our staff and customers of any changed circumstances.

MBHT are doing our best to mitigate risks and offer a supportive environment for all involved.

The following measures have been put in place to ensure MBHT can mitigate the risks involved with Covid-19:

### **Contactless Bookings and Check Ins and Record Keeping (all levels)**

- Contactless online check in system - sent and received before customers arrival at facility
- Bookings are made online and will capture all customers details and securely stored in the MBHT website system
- We will ask you to give us the contact details of each rider in your group in the event we need to make any contact tracing.
- All staff, volunteers and customers are required to sign in upon arrival using the Compulsory QR Code (or manual sign if necessary)
- Customers arriving at our premises may need to call us on 021654622 to let us know you have arrived at our facility. We will then let you know when to leave your car and come over to be checked in for your ride.
- All trail records of customer and staff interactions will be documented and securely stored in our system to ensure we can easily trace interactions if needed.

### **Mask wearing (Red and Orange Levels)**

Masks must be worn at the facility when needed. Staff and customers may remove your masks during times when you are at least 2 or meters away from the closest person to you, If you are finding it harder to breathe while on a trek please discuss with staff and remain distanced. It is strongly advised that children have access to wear a mask should we need them at the facility.

Customers and staff must wear a mask when:

- At the horse park / Farm (bases)

- During interactions with staff and customers before and after trails/ rides
- While undergoing a safety briefing
- Mounting onto a horse
- When on a trail with guide needing to give you assistance and in close proximity (less than 2 meters)
- When being lead by a guide
- When dismounting a horse (parents to dismount first to help their own kids or other members in their group)
- If ever around other staff at the facility - closer than 2 meters

### **Sanitising, Gear and Surfaces (level red and orange)**

- A hand sanitising station will be set up each day on site and all customers and staff will be required to sanitiser their hands on arrival to our facility as well as during the attendance at the facility.
- All helmets and high vis are to be sanitized and laid out in sizes for customers to then put on. After any use / try on / handle any gear they then need to put gear into sanitising bin for cleaning
- Staff to sanitise all gear after any use, staff to wear gloves while sanitising
- All saddles and reins to be sanitised before and after use of a customer using gloves and sanitising sprays
- If ipad is used by any customers staff to sanitise between each use
- Any surfaces used by many users will be sanitised regular between uses
- We now have disposable gloves onsite for any staff and customers to wear gloves while riding and attending our facility should they wish to use them

### **Health & General safety practices (levels red and orange)**

- Staff and customers are required to only attend the facility if they are in good health and not showing any signs of cold and flu like symptoms or any other sickness that could jeopardise the safety of any persons
- MBHT now has a distance temperature checking device and if it's suspected that someone is unwell they will have their temperature checked and sent home if they have a temperature or showing any signs that they are unwell
- There will be no hand shaking, hugging, etc or unnecessary physical contact between any customers or staff. Stick to waving and smiling at each other instead
- At all times where possible all customers and staff will remain 2 meters away from each other.
- In line with the government regulations there will be no more than 25 people at the facility at any one time including our staff and volunteers.
- We now have a "Ride your bubble policy" which means where possible you will only ride with the people you have booked in with and of course our safe and careful guides. This is always based on safety and when in the very unlikely event we may need to combine a couple of riders on the same trek our guides will ensure all customers are to ride at least 2-3 meters apart at all times Please note all our rides will require a minimum of 2 people from the same bubble to go ahead with a ride.

- We ask anyone who is in isolation or who has travelled back to NZ from overseas within the last 14 days not to attend our trekking facility. We also ask if anyone who has been in contact with someone in self isolation or who has recently travelled not to attend our trekking facility. Any persons not infected after their 14 day self isolation period are welcome to book in with us.
- Faster more experienced rides will only be offered to experienced riders with proven evidence of experience and this is at our staff's discretion. This is to avoid having higher risk situations of an accident / fall etc where then staff and clients might need to close physical contact.

### **VACCINE PASS UPDATE:**

At THIS STAGE Muriwai Beach Horse Treks will not be requiring the use of the My Vaccine Pass Verification.

We do however STRONGLY recommend vaccines on a whole and this is supported by team members here at MBHT.

This decision did not come easily and took much consideration by all staff during our consultation period. We will also mention that this decision may need to be changed in the future and given the rapid developments of the Covid-19 pandemic this decision could change rapidly.

MBHT has completed a full risk assessment with our staff, Health and Safety Providers, legal professionals as well as gathered information provided by official websites outlining all restrictions, requirements and criteria.

Our business runs as a outdoor facility where social distancing is not only practised but a normal standard in our operations and the facility can run with smaller private bookings never exceeding 25 people including all customers and staff so for these reason among others in our Covid-19 Policy we are able to operate without requiring the proof of Vaccine.

In order for MBHT to operate under level red and orange of the GOVT Protection Framework the requirements are as follows as stated on:

<https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/covid-19-protection-framework/entertainment-recreation-and-exercise/>

Outdoor activities off-premises, e.g. guided walks, kayaking tours, golf clubs, tennis clubs.

Requirements to operate at red level for when My Vaccine Pass verification is not used

- Services on premises is limited to gatherings (private groups where attendees are known to each other) and restricted to up to 25 people in a defined space.
- Face coverings are encouraged.

Muriwai Beach Horse Treks and its staff have taken even more precautions mentioned under our Covid-19 Policy and are able to mitigate risks involved.

See below for more information from appropriate websites and authorities

<https://www.business.govt.nz/news/vaccine-updates-vaccine-assessment-tool-and-my-vaccine-pass-man-dates/>

<https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/novel-coronavirus-covid/how-to-decide-what-work-requires-a-vaccinated-employee/>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us directly and know that we are doing our best to take care of you, our staff and horses at all times.

Thank you for continuing support

The MBHT Team.