

Transport Advice

Advice current at 4 April 2020

Recognised reasons a horse can be transported from its current location during the covid-19 level 4 alert

There have been multiple situations identified as valid reasons for needing to transport your horse during the covid-19 level 4 alert.

This list is by no means exhaustive, it is to act as a guide. The overriding purpose is everyone stays home, but owners still have a responsibility to meet the animal welfare needs of the animals under their care.

Valid reasons for transport include but are not limited to:

- Transport to attend urgent veterinary attention
- No more grazing/pasture at current location, unable to buy in feed and unable to source grazing within walking distance.
- Movement of racehorses to agistment properties. A [link](#) to the harness racing press release from 30th March 2020.
- Mare and foals, ready for weaning, to be transported to facilities that can manage this process safely.
- Under the direction of a NZ registered veterinarian or Animal Welfare Inspector that the horse should be moved due to animal welfare concerns.

If transport can be deferred, it should be.

Please follow the guidelines for safely transporting your horse.

Recommendations for transporting your horse safely during covid-19 level 4 alert

If a horse must be moved due to welfare concerns, we recommend that a horse transport company is used in the first instance. These companies have gone through the essential business registration process and they have safe protocols in place for staff, owner and animals. If a transport company is unavailable but you have your own method of transport, please:

- check local travel restrictions first
- make sure those in the vehicle are within your own social bubble
- ensure all necessities are taken with you whilst travelling (food and water) to prevent unnecessary stops
- practice government recommended hygiene, maintaining a 2m social distance for those outside your social bubble.
- Ask that the animal is washed down before collection and all areas you may handle are sanitised
- Take note to sanitise hands after handling horse tack and disinfect this on arrival at destination.

MPI cannot authorise your travel however animal health and welfare is recognised as essential, this includes providing your animals with food, water and any other aspect that you need to provide to meet your responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act and relevant codes of welfare.

Advice to horse transport companies when transporting horses

If there are 5 or more people in your business then you need to register as an essential business on the website. Where there are fewer than 5 people you do not need to go through the registration process. The online registration form has now closed. However, if you are an essential service to the primary industries, or a supplier to an essential service you can email us at info@mpi.govt.nz. Your company should follow the guidelines on this [website](#) and scroll down to the title: *My business is an essential service – what do I need to do to keep people safe?*

MPI cannot authorise your travel however animal health and welfare is recognised as an essential service during the covid-19 level 4 alert.

When travelling essential workers may be asked to show who they work for. We encourage essential workers to carry some form of identification to show who they are, who they work for, and their role e.g. business card, letter from their employer or work ID. Any other information that can be kept with essential workers transit that may prove to the authorities the authenticity of the journey, will only support your case if stopped.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will use reasonable skill and care when providing technical advice. However, the technical advice offered by MPI is based on the information provided by you and is intended as general guidance only. The advice is not to be regarded as legal advice. In providing this advice, MPI, its employees and agents disclaim all responsibility for any inaccuracy, error, omission, lateness or any other kind of inadequacy, deficiency, or flaw in, or in relation to, the information provided and all liability of any kind, on the part of any and all of them, to any person or entity (including the recipient of this email) that chooses to rely upon the information