



Renew TRC's COVID-19 Response Plan for March 13 – April 10:

Please read the following to understand Renew Therapeutic Riding Center's new policies surrounding the COVID-19 virus, as well as opportunities for unique programming during this unusual time.

Renew Therapeutic Riding Center has created mitigation policies to ensure the safety of all participants, volunteers, caregivers, families, teachers, and staff members during this time period with cases of COVID-19 being confirmed in Michigan. We recognize that strategies are crucial to slowing the transmission of the virus until treatment is readily available. These policies are intended to protect those at risk of severe illness and those who may unknowingly transmit the virus to the most vulnerable in our community.

If you have any symptoms of illness, please stay home and do not go out into the community or come to Renew for any reason.

Effective immediately, the following steps are being taken for our PARTICIPANTS:

- 1) All school groups and group home lessons are cancelled for the current session (the "New Renew" Session in March)
- 2) Home-based students who have no symptoms and do not have a compromised immune system may opt to come for their scheduled lesson time during the "New Renew" session. If a student opts to cancel, please notify our Program Manager as soon as possible by calling 616-227-3639 ext. 7 or sending an email to programs@renewtrc.org
- 3) We will postpone any new student tours/intake procedures until a later date.
- 4) Students who do come to the facility will be assessed for wellness prior to their lesson to include having their temperature taken by a medical grade non-touch thermometer. If there are any signs of illness, they will not be allowed to remain for the lesson and will need to return home.
- 5) All students, parents, guests, caregivers, therapists, teachers, volunteers and staff members will be required to wash their hands upon arrival and prior to leaving the facility.

- 6) All surfaces, doorknobs, handrails, equipment, helmets, etc. will be wiped or sprayed down between lessons with a disinfectant product (Lysol or CDC-approved equivalent).
- 7) At this point, students who are registered for the Spring Session can expect to attend lessons beginning on April 13th.
- 8) If you have any questions about tuition or scholarships being affected by this policy, please reach out to our Program Manager at programs@renewtrc.org

Effective immediately, the following steps are being taken for our VOLUNTEERS:

- 1) All school groups and group home lessons are cancelled during March and the first week of April; therefore, volunteers who were scheduled to work with these groups are not expected to report for their scheduled time.
- 2) Volunteers who have been scheduled with home-based students (students coming to their lesson from home, brought by a parent, guardian or caregiver and not on a bus or commercial van), should plan to come as you are scheduled as long as you are in good health. You will be notified if your student cancels.
- 3) Volunteers who do come to the facility will be assessed for wellness prior to their lesson to include having their temperature taken by a non-touch medical grade thermometer. If there are any signs of illness, they will not be allowed to remain for the lesson and will need to return home.
- 4) All students, parents, guests, caregivers, therapists, teachers, volunteers and staff members will be required to wash their hands upon arrival and prior to leaving the facility.
- 5) All surfaces, doorknobs, handrails, equipment, helmets, etc. will be wiped or sprayed down between lessons with a disinfectant product (Lysol or CDC-approved equivalent).
- 6) If you are a facility volunteer or part of the volunteer barn crew for feeding and horse chores, please plan to continue your schedule unless you hear otherwise from the appropriate staff member. All preventative measure noted above will remain in place, even during non-program hours.

This challenging time also brings along an opportunity:

The cancellation of school groups and group homes will allow for alternative programming during the “New Renew” Session in March. We will be able to offer volunteer opportunities in the barn and around the farm on a larger scale, as well as having the opportunity to hold **VOLUNTEER LESSONS** for groups of no more than two at a time during certain hours on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and **SIBLING, PARENT, OR TEACHER LESSONS** for families and teachers of participants on Wednesdays and Fridays. All that we ask in exchange for the lesson is that you 1) pay the \$35 per person lesson fee; and 2) agree to assist with volunteer work around the barn and farm (sweeping, organizing, mucking, etc.). These lessons will be offered on a first come, first serve basis, and to those who have a current **VOLUNTEER APPLICATION** on file. Lessons will be scheduled one week at a time, both to allow for the opportunity to be available to as many as possible in our community and also to allow time to assess wellness for those interested in participating.

All lessons will be taught by a PATH Intl. certified instructor and an available horse and tack and equipment will be assigned. All policies related to COVID-19 will be in place during these lessons, and compliance with these policies (see above) is required for participation.

If you are interested in participating in a **VOLUNTEER LESSON**, please email our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@renewtrc.org

If you are interested in participating in a **SIBLING, PARENT or TEACHER LESSON**, please email our Program Manager at programs@renewtrc.org

Together, we are hopeful that we will reduce or eliminate the spread of this virus. Please be assured that we are committed to doing our part at Renew, and we look forward to the day when we can return to business as usual for the entire Renew family.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@renewtrc.org or call 616-227-3639.

Thank you for your support and understanding during this time.

Melissa

Melissa Conner
Executive Director