

To Our JHTR Family:

While Teton County businesses slowly begin to reopen, JHTR must consider the many implications for the population we serve when determining next steps for the program. As risk of contracting the Coronavirus continues to be a concern nationally and globally, JHTR's first and foremost concern is protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our employees, volunteers, and participants and their families. The following decisions were made with this priority in mind:

Summer Session

On May 19, the JHTR Board of Directors unanimously voted to postpone the decision to reopen for Summer Session. There is much to consider in how we operate at the arena to offer our services safely amidst this pandemic, including social distancing, Personal Protective Equipment, cleaning and sanitizing procedures, and establishing group sizes.

Over the next month, the staff and Board will review industry-specific guidelines and recommendations for operating during this crisis. We will conduct a risk-benefit analysis to guide our decision making. The Board will reconvene on **June 16, 2020** to discuss the feasibility of safely reopening. A final decision regarding the 2020 riding season will be announced shortly thereafter.

Office Closure & Remote Work

The office will remain closed, with all staff working remotely, until June 17. Essential personnel will access the facility as needed to care for the herd and carryout necessary tasks for a potential reopening.

Virtual Engagement Program

While we have been unable to operate in our traditional sense, our dedicated team has been working remotely to create interactive virtual programming to allow our participants to stay connected during this period of social distancing. Our "Virtual Engagement Program" includes a variety of interactive materials, each directly aligned with the fundamental goals of our traditional services.

Each week, participants receive diverse offerings via email, our website, and social media. To increase accessibility, this is provided at no cost to the participant. You can review past and future content here: www.jhtr.org/virtual-engagement-program.

JHTR's Equine Heroes

Our staff, in conjunction with generous donors, are working to care for the herd in various pastures throughout the community. Because JHTR does not have pasture of its own, the generosity of these individuals has meant greater space for our therapeutic colleagues to graze and continue resting in preparation for resuming their critical roles at the arena when it is safe to do so.

Stomping the Divots

We have made the difficult, but necessary decision to transition Stomping the Divots to a virtual event for 2020. Our traditional one-day event will be transformed into a multi-week campaign, including a live virtual event. While we cannot all be together in the place for this year's event, we can still celebrate the JHTR mission! We invite you to join us for an assortment of interactive social activities, student demonstrations, and everyone's favorite auction, all from the comfort and safety of your own home. We are still in the planning stages and will communicate further details and information in the coming weeks.

Volunteers

We will be releasing a virtual volunteer training video in the coming weeks, enabling volunteers (new and returning) to fulfill a portion of our annual training requirements remotely. In subsequent years, virtual training will be offered as an alternative to in-person Sidewalker training, thus providing greater efficiency in pre-season preparations.

Overcoming Obstacles

While so much uncertainty continues to surround the Coronavirus, there is one thing I know for certain...and that is that at JHTR we never give up! For 28 years our participants have taught us about the importance of flexibility, perseverance, and innovation to overcome limitations that occur in life. As we face the current COVID crisis, we find strength in the tenacity and "can do" spirit embodied by our participants and know that together we will weather this storm.

I appreciate your patience as we continue to adapt to this dynamic situation. Our hearts are with each and every one of you during these unprecedented times. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email or telephone.

I look forward to the day we are all together again at the arena. In the meantime, I hope you and yours stay healthy, safe, and hopeful.

Best regards,



Tori Fancher
Executive Director

