

# THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COALITION

## Helping Out Amid the Coronavirus Outbreak

### Breeders' Cup

- Breeders' Cup is supporting backstretch communities and other industry stakeholders affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with an initial donation of \$25,000 to the Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA), which will be allocated to various local backstretch communities to help those most in need.
- Breeders' Cup also donated 4,500 gloves, 2,000 hair covers, 1,200 Tyvek suits, 500 masks, and 500 shoe covers to the State of Kentucky for medical professionals.

### Churchill Downs

- Churchill Downs is hosting an at-home Kentucky Derby party on May 2 to raise \$2 million for COVID-19 emergency relief efforts. Its first ever virtual horse race — [The Kentucky Derby: Triple Crown Showdown](#) – will feature the 13 Triple Crown winners and use data algorithms to determine the probability of their finishing positions. Fans will be able to choose their favorite horse to win and join Churchill Downs in making a charitable donation. Churchill Downs has pledged to match up to \$1 million in donations with funds going to Team Kentucky Fund, Direct Relief and the Relief for Equine Industry Needs Fund.
- Churchill Downs Chef David Danielson and his team have partnered with The LEE Initiative in Louisville to produce 300-400 meals per day for those in need via the Restaurant Workers Relief Program. Their efforts have expanded to provide meals for healthcare workers, EMTs, police officers, truck drivers and food bank employees.
- At Fair Grounds in New Orleans, horsemen are able to shelter in place without threat of eviction and have continued to train under enhanced safety measures.
- Churchill Downs is supporting the Quarantine Barn Food Bank in partnership with the [Kentucky Race Track Chaplaincy](#) and [Backside Learning Center](#) by establishing a drop off location for non-perishable items that will be given to backside families in Louisville.
- Churchill Downs is also continuing to provide health, dental, vision and life insurance benefits to all furloughed employees.

### Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

- While its backstretch is currently empty as its next meet isn't until July, Del Mar has continued to support the local community. On April 3, the Del Mar Fairgrounds and the San Diego Food Bank set up a large-scale emergency "drive-thru" food distribution for low-income families and those affected by COVID-19 disruptions.
- The "touchless" distribution provided food supplies to more than 1,000 vehicles, including canned protein, canned vegetables, canned fruits, wholegrain food items, shelf-stable foods, nonperishable foods, and fresh products.

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## Keeneland

- Keeneland has teamed with several Central Kentucky community organizations to create [Nourish Lexington](#), an initiative to utilize hospitality workers who are recently unemployed due to COVID-19 closings as well as other community food assets to provide meals to those in need of immediate access to food.
- Keeneland also donated 1,500 pounds of food to Nourish Lexington, 4,000 pairs of rubber gloves and will contribute 100% of proceeds from online sales from The Keeneland Shop and Keeneland Mercantile throughout the month of April.
- The Keeneland Chaplaincy program teamed with the Track Kitchen to prepare more than 200 complimentary Easter meals for the men and women who work on the backside. Keeneland Chaplain Dean Carpenter and his staff are meanwhile providing ongoing support to horsemen and stable employees.
- Additionally, Keeneland's Building and Hospitality teams donated 14,000 pairs of rubber gloves to the Kentucky Governor's office, for distribution based on need as determined by the governor's staff.

## New York Racing Association (NYRA)

- The Belmont Child Care Association (BCCA) operates a childcare and early-childhood education facility, the Anna House, that was forced to close on March 17. NYRA has supported [BCCA's efforts to collect donations](#) of diapers, wipes, powdered milk, formula, art supplies, and creative activities for children of backstretch workers.
- NYRA is [promoting](#) The New York Race Chaplaincy of America-hosted [online fundraiser](#) to restock its food pantry, which supports backstretch workers and their families.
- The Backstretch Employee Service Team (BEST) of New York provides backstretch workers with free healthcare, life insurance, counseling, food, and clothing – through funding from NYRA and NYTHA. NYRA is [supporting](#) BEST's current effort to [raise money](#) for negative pressure rooms at their Belmont and Saratoga clinics to treat COVID-19 patients, in addition to expanding staff and clinic hours.

## The Stronach Group

- The Stronach Group is donating the proceeds from a weekend of spectator-free racing at Santa Anita Park (before its government-mandated closure) to initiatives that support the racing community and those in need due to COVID-19 disruptions.
- Santa Anita is supporting the [California Thoroughbred Horsemen Foundation](#) (CTHF), which provides health and dental care to the backstretch community, through a combination of [tweets](#), campaign-style emails and [website features](#). Donations will fund the "Noble Threewitt" Health Center at the track.
- In Maryland, Pimlico Race Course is serving as a COVID-19 testing site.
- Gulfstream Park has made donations to [His Place Ministries](#) Chaplain Tom Lapointe, who runs the local racetrack chaplaincy supporting the needs of the backstretch community.