

## NYOC Procedures for Classes During Covid 19 Pandemic

*The Board of Directors of the North York Obedience Club has approved the following procedures for our training classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. These procedures have been developed in consultation with Toronto Public Health, as well as with other government and medical authorities. We have also reviewed best practices used by our colleagues in the dog training field. These guidelines align with the policies and re-opening procedures provided by the Diocese of Toronto and the Anglican Church of Canada, where we hold our classes and meetings (St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole Church).*

### Mitigation Strategies to Prevent Transmission of COVID-19

Transmission occurs following two main pathways: Directly by droplets from an infected person and by touching surfaces where the virus can live for up to 72 hours, depending upon the type of surface.

We currently understand that COVID 19 is transmitted by droplets containing viruses from an infected person by coughing, sneezing or talking to another person. These droplets then introduce the virus into our bodies in one of two ways.

#### 1. **Surfaces/Hands – We touch surfaces on which virus (droplets) have landed and then introduce them into our body through mouth, nose or eyes by touching our face.**

Solutions:

- Avoiding shared touch surfaces
- Hand washing/ use of sanitizer
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces (doors, railings, toilet fixtures etc)

#### Predictable Hot Spots

| Location   | Strategy  |
|--|---|
| Front Door and Exit Doors                        | One person opens it and props it open. The door handle is cleaned after use   |
| Stair Railing                                    | Cleaned between each class (Concierge or COVID Ambassador)  |
| Classroom Door                                   | One person opens door and props it open until everyone is inside. Door handle is cleaned after use  |
| Equipment, rally signs /stands, jumps, props etc | A single designated person touches each item. They are cleaned after use.   |
| Station chairs                                   | Cleaned after each class.   |
| Bathrooms  | Each user will clean with materials provided.   |
| During class                                     | No touching dogs belonging to other students<br>Dogs are not allowed to visit each other<br>Trainers will not “borrow” students’ dogs for demos |
| End of each evening                              | Concierges to disinfect mats before picking them up.  |

#### 2. **Direct Droplet Spread – Through coughing, sneezing or talking**

Solutions:

- Maintain distance (minimum 2 metres – maximum 10 people in room at a time)
- Mandatory wearing of masks for students, teaching staff, concierges and volunteers. Students will

provide their own mask. Teaching staff, helpers, volunteers and concierges will be provided with masks by NYOC.

### Predictable Hot Spots

| Location   | Strategy   |
|--|--|
| Front door   | Different Entry and Exit doors.  |
| Waiting Area   | Students will wait in their cars until called in to class. No waiting area.  |
| Between front door and training hall                             | COVID Ambassador(s) will collect personal health assessment forms/waivers and shepherd(s) students downstairs directly to their stations in the classroom ensuring correct social distance is maintained.  |
| Hand sanitizer stations  | Have multiple locations (upstairs and downstairs) outside and inside the training room. We will maintain a small supply for other areas of the church, if needed.  |
| Health Assessment form is both health check and liability waiver | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Assessment forms will be completed at home and brought to class each week by everyone: training staff, students, volunteers and concierges.</li> <li>• Before entry to training area COVID Ambassador will verbally confirm the information on form is currently correct.</li> <li>• NYOC will provide printed forms &amp; distribute them at the first night of classes as needed.(Everyone may not be able to print at home)</li> </ul>  |
| Puppy accident cleanups  | Owner holds dog, training staff does cleanup.  |
| During class   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One person per dog</li> <li>• Each handler to have a designated spot to put their belongings and stand between exercises. Students must go their spot directly upon entering the training room.</li> <li>• No spectators (except under special prearranged circumstances),</li> <li>• Use physical prompts to remind people about correct distance (chairs for stations, spacing lines on floor)</li> <li>• Everyone is required to wear a mask,</li> <li>• Classes will be limited to a maximum of 5 dogs</li> </ul> |
| Q and A for puppy class  | Extend puppy class by 15 minutes for Q & A in training room  |
| Forgotten masks or personal health assessment forms              | NYOC to have some masks at the church, free for NYOC volunteers/staff, \$2:00 charge for students. Extra personal health assessment forms will be available, if needed.  |

### Risk Management/Harm Reduction

- Sessions will be held for trainers, volunteers, concierges to train on necessary procedures the week before classes start for the first sessions.
- NYOC volunteers (COVID Ambassadors) will be available to help with access from vehicles, through the front door to designated training spaces, manage personal health assessment forms and spot cleaning
- Procedures will be posted on NYOC.ca website and sent to each student as they register
- Health assessment forms for screening and liability to be submitted each class by training

staff, volunteers, concierges and students

- Health assessment forms: Attendance will be kept for each class for tracing if necessary and retained for 3 years.