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WSI is a Full Member of the WBFSH



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International Showjumpers with an Irish Accent

Planning for 2022

We'd read this script before

In 2003, two members of what would become WSI's leadership team were living and working in Hong Kong when the SARS epidemic hit the city like a biological monsoon. We donned face masks and socially distanced (although this phrase had not yet been coined) while doctors, nurses, and other health care workers suffered and died from a mysterious unnamed virus (the first of what later came to be known as a "novel coronavirus"), exposed while bravely caring for desperately ill patients struggling to take just one more breath. So on 31 January 2020, when we read that the World Health Organisation (WHO) had announced the day before that a Novel Coronavirus constituted a global health emergency, WSI issued a statement on its homepage that no events would be held until further notice. And on 12 March 2020, when the WHO warned that the COVID-19 outbreak is a pandemic, WSI affirmed this decision on its homepage. Stallion inspections, mare inspections,

educational events, and the Irish Warmblood Festival were all cancelled. And we waited. We hoped it would all be over in a year, much like SARS. But it's been a long two years, for everyone, but especially once again for health care workers and their families. Now we think, tentatively, that WSI can give notice that events will resume in early 2022.

Stallion Inspections in March 2022

WSI has a dozen stallions in the inspection pipeline, and their owners have been patiently and prudently waiting for public health conditions to improve so inspections can safely continue. WSI has developed a plan that includes a streamlined process, high quality masks, social distancing, and antigen testing so we can hold inspections next March. We will release further details in the coming weeks, but inspections will be held barring the arrival of a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 that poses an increased risk to our members, inspectors, and spectators. "Der Mensch Tracht un Gott Lacht", the saying goes.

Irish Warmblood Festival 2022

The Irish Warmblood Festival has developed into an important educational and benchmarking event for our breeders, and it was missed in 2020 and this year. Barring the arrival of a new variant of concern, we expect the Festival will resume in 2022. We will know more in the spring about the feasibility of this plan, but high quality masks, social distancing, and antigen testing can be deployed if required by public health conditions.

Mare Inspections

WSI has been assessing mares by video for the last two years, but in 2022 we expect to be able to return to mare inspections at central venues.

Educational Events

Education and training have been core activities of WSI for many years, and our commitment continues. However, we have decided not to plan any educational events in 2022 as they carry the greatest risk of infection for participants.

We thank our breeders and members for their patience and caution. We look forward to seeing you at a WSI event soon.



Photo by Nathan Dumlao/https://unsplash.com/@nate_dumlao