**RDA Update on 24 March**

Following the statement from the Government yesterday evening, we are now confirming that all RDA activities must cease, if they have not already done so.

Please be aware that this means there should not be any volunteering at RDA groups of any sort, with the exception of providing essential care for horses.  Volunteers should only be coming to a yard if it is still a requirement in order to meet the needs of horses – if you are a group that employs stable staff, please consider if there is any need for volunteers to be there as well.

Anyone supporting groups with the care of horses must follow government guidelines around hygiene and social distancing.

We have received a number of queries about children coming to help at yards.  Please remember that RDA policy in this respect has not changed.  Volunteers must be at least 12 years old; they must have been appropriately trained (and this recorded on their green card); and they must be appropriately supervised.  Please do not bring children to yards if you cannot meet all three of these requirements.

We will be in touch later today with further advice for groups, but wanted to stress these points this morning.