



The guidelines and restrictions on schools varies regionally and sometimes even locally so it is a good idea to talk to your school to see what position they are in. Whether your group is able to offer riding or not, have a talk with your school contact to let them know your current situation, what you can or can't offer and why.

### Getting Started

- Before any activity starts the group must complete and send in their covid-19 risk assessment and trustee checklist to National Office for sign-off to recommence RDA activities.
- All activities carried out at the group must be in line with government guidance including any local restrictions.
- Social distancing guidelines vary depending on your location but remember for all group activity RDA is following the government guidance for coaching. This may be different to the school guidelines in your region.
- Talk to your school, they will also have guidelines and restrictions in place that might limit what they are able to do.

### New riders

Whilst abiding by the current government social distancing guidance it is not possible to do pre riding assessments for new riders unless you have access to a mechanical horse.

Guidelines on using a mechanical horse and the 'Application for RDA activities' form, can be found at [www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/gettingstarted-after-lockdown/](http://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/gettingstarted-after-lockdown/)

### What could you offer if not able to ride?

- School visits  
If you would like to take a pony to school to be able to do a quiet corner/meet and greet this may be possible with the schools consent.

As a one off visit or to trial a visit (up to 2 visits) you can use the 'RDA Holidays and day out' form. <https://www.myrda.org.uk/assets/Holiday-Day-Out-Insurance-Form-17-1.pdf>

For a longer term solution, you can have the school assessed as a temporary non riding venue. The venue would need to be assessed by the Regional coach which can be done virtually (in real time via a video call), going through the venue and risk assessments for both the group and the school.

The RDA public liability insurance would cover both scenarios however the ponies are not covered by the RDA insurance if they were to get injured and the transportation of the ponies is not covered by RDA insurance.

- Onsite non-riding activities, there are activity sheets available on the website to help with planning some of these.
  - Quiet corner
  - Virtual horse care
  - RDA Proficiency tests
  - Countryside/dressage challenge on foot

If you are able to offer any activity be clear with the school on protocols and procedures, you have in place. Share you risk assessments and ask to see theirs.

## Check list

Action	Y/N
COVID-19 risk assessment and trustee checklist signed off	
Only activities planned that meet current relevant (including local) social distancing requirements and gathering numbers – check any restrictions	
Contacted all schools who use group	
Suggested unmounted activities (where relevant) and risk assessment share with school	
Suggested mounted activities (where relevant) and risk assessment shared with school	
If taking an equine into a school as pupils are unable to get to the group, completed RDA visits form or assessed as an alternative venue	
School happy with activities planned and risk assessments provided	