

RDA Flu Vaccination Update – April 2019

With Regional Qualifiers beginning across the UK, we would like to remind organisers and competitors about the Flu Vaccination protocol that RDA follows. Many venues are requesting to see horses' passports before allowing them to compete. It is also a legal requirement for a horse to travel with a valid, up to date passport.

For 2019 all horses competing at our National Championships must have been vaccinated within the previous six months. If your horse's booster is not already due in the six months before the event, we are recommending that you arrange to bring it forward to this time. Moving forward we recommend you continue to give the annual booster each year at the start of the competition season. This does not mean that horses require vaccinating every six months.

We are hoping that many of our Regional Vets will be on hand at the qualifiers to check vaccinations and help make sure you are up to date before attending the National Championships. If you are not sure if your passport meets the rules, we can help you. Please email a clear image of the vaccine & ID page to Emma Bayliss.

Our rules are as follows:

- The horse must receive a primary course of two injections against equine influenza given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart.
- Only these first two injections need to be given before the horse may compete.
- In addition, a FIRST booster injection must be given no less than 150 days and no more than 215 days after the second injection of the primary course.
- Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one year apart, commencing after the first booster injection.
- Horses visiting the RDA National Training Centre or National Championships must have been vaccinated within the **previous six months**.
- None of these injections can be given within the **seven** days before the day of competing or entry into stables at National Championships.

Please remember that all RDA equines, who complete a significant proportion of their time doing RDA activities or make a significant contribution to RDA, are eligible for the **FREE** annual vaccine scheme. Regional Equine Advisors and Regional Vets are happy to discuss any queries that you may have. If you would like their contact details or have any queries about the RDA Flu Vaccine policy, please email ebayliss@rda.org.uk