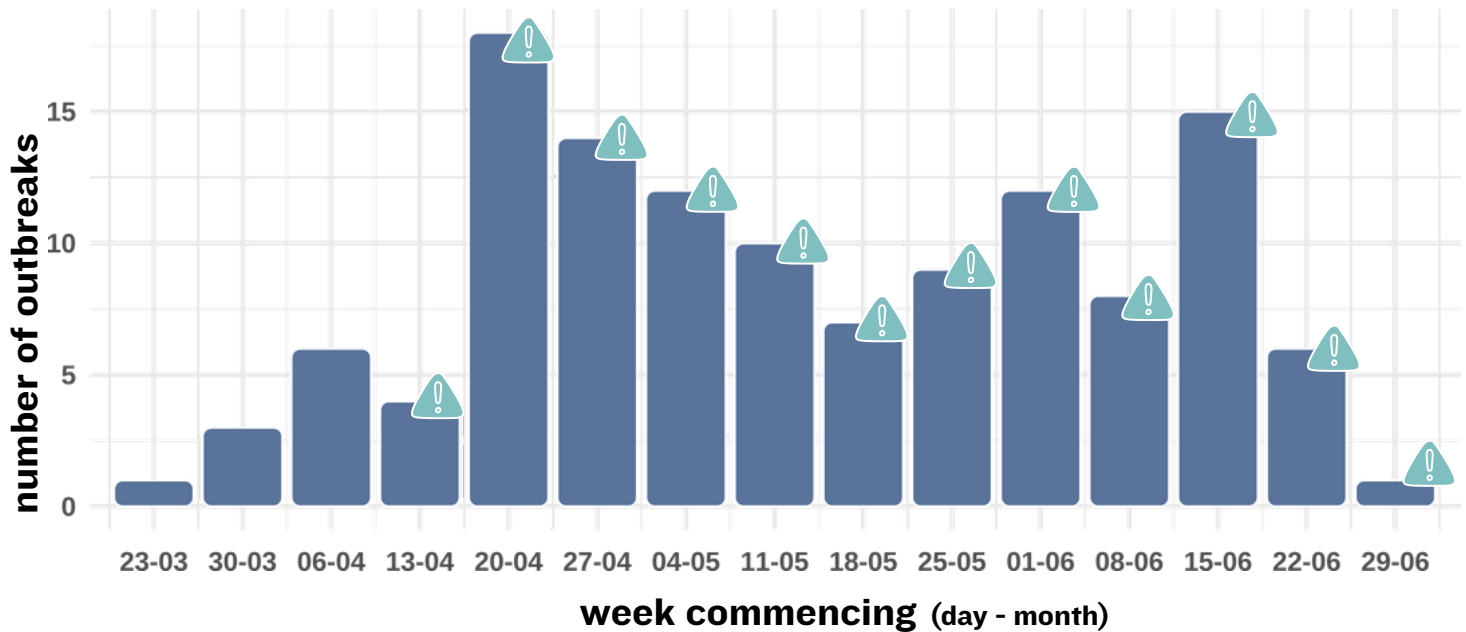


# UPDATE ON EQUINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS DETECTED IN THE UK SPRING/SUMMER 2026

**EIDS UPDATE: 02/07/2026**

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## OUTBREAKS PER WEEK BY SAMPLING DATE



*The sampling date reflects when horses showed clinical signs, prompting veterinary investigation and sample collection, and may therefore differ from the date the outbreak was reported to by EIDS*



EIDS is also aware of a **further 51 confirmed outbreaks** that are not included in this report

Thanks to the continued support of veterinary practices across the UK, EIDS continues to receive reports of equine influenza outbreaks, allowing disease activity to be monitored and timely information to be shared with the equine industry.

It is now **three months since the current outbreak began**, with EIDS reporting **126 laboratory-confirmed outbreaks across 55 UK counties**, since 1 April 2026. However, **EIDS is aware of a total of 177 laboratory-confirmed outbreaks**, albeit that supply of epidemiological details and permission to report anonymously have not been provided for all outbreaks.

It is important to note that these figures represent only those laboratory-confirmed outbreaks that have EIDS have been made aware of. **Additional outbreaks are likely to have occurred** but may not have been investigated, laboratory confirmed or reported to the surveillance programme. Continued reporting by veterinary practices and horse owners remains essential to ensure the surveillance data provide the most accurate picture of equine influenza activity across the UK.

## THANK YOU!

Encouragingly, despite concerns that the large number of horses attending recent sales, competitions and other gatherings could have resulted in a substantial increase in transmission, **as yet we have not seen a surge in reported outbreaks. While new cases continue to be identified**, the overall rate of reporting has remained relatively steady.

This suggests that the **equine community's continued commitment** to vaccination, biosecurity and responsible management is helping to limit onward transmission despite the increased opportunities for horses to mix. **Thank you** to everyone who continues to play their part, **please keep it up!**

Geographical spread remains a defining feature of the current outbreak. **West Lothian has become one of the latest counties** to report confirmed cases, and we are also now able to include an outbreak in Newport from a previous reporting period following receipt of reporting permission.



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## KEY POINTS



Since the previous update on 25/06/2026, EIDS has received permission to report a further seven confirmed outbreaks across six counties.



Nearly **two-thirds** (62.7%) of reported outbreaks **have occurred in unvaccinated horses**, while recent **horse movement has been identified in 63.5% of affected premises**.



Recent horse movement and lack of vaccination therefore continue to be the most commonly identified epidemiological features of affected premises.



### Vaccination status

- 14/126 (**11%**) were vaccinated
- 79/126 (**63%**) were unvaccinated
- 30/126 (23.8%) had unknown vaccination status
- 3/126 (2.4%) involved mixed groups of vaccinated and unvaccinated horses.



### Movement history

- **80/126 (64%)** involved horses with a recent history of travel
- 7/126 (6%) reported no recent movement
- 39/126 (31%) history unavailable

## LOOKING AHEAD

We are now in one of the busiest periods of the year for horse movement, with horses regularly attending shows, competitions, sales and other gatherings across the country. Despite **cautious optimism** that the number of reported outbreaks has not surged following several large equestrian gatherings, **we are not yet out of the woods**.

Every horse movement or contact presents an opportunity for equine influenza to spread. The encouraging stability in reported outbreaks can only be maintained through continued attention to vaccination (ideally 6 monthly boosters), good biosecurity, prompt isolation of affected horses and early veterinary investigation of suspected respiratory disease. Horse owners, trainers, transporters, event organisers and veterinary practices all have an important role to play. By continuing to follow established guidance and taking every opportunity to reduce disease transmission, the equine community can help bring this outbreak to an end.

## SUMMARY

Three months after the start of this outbreak, equine influenza continues to circulate across a wide geographical area of the UK. The absence of the anticipated surge in reported outbreaks following recent large equestrian gatherings is encouraging and reflects the collective efforts of the equine community. EIDS urges vets and owners to remain vigilant and apply simple but effective measures to reduce disease spread of influenza.

