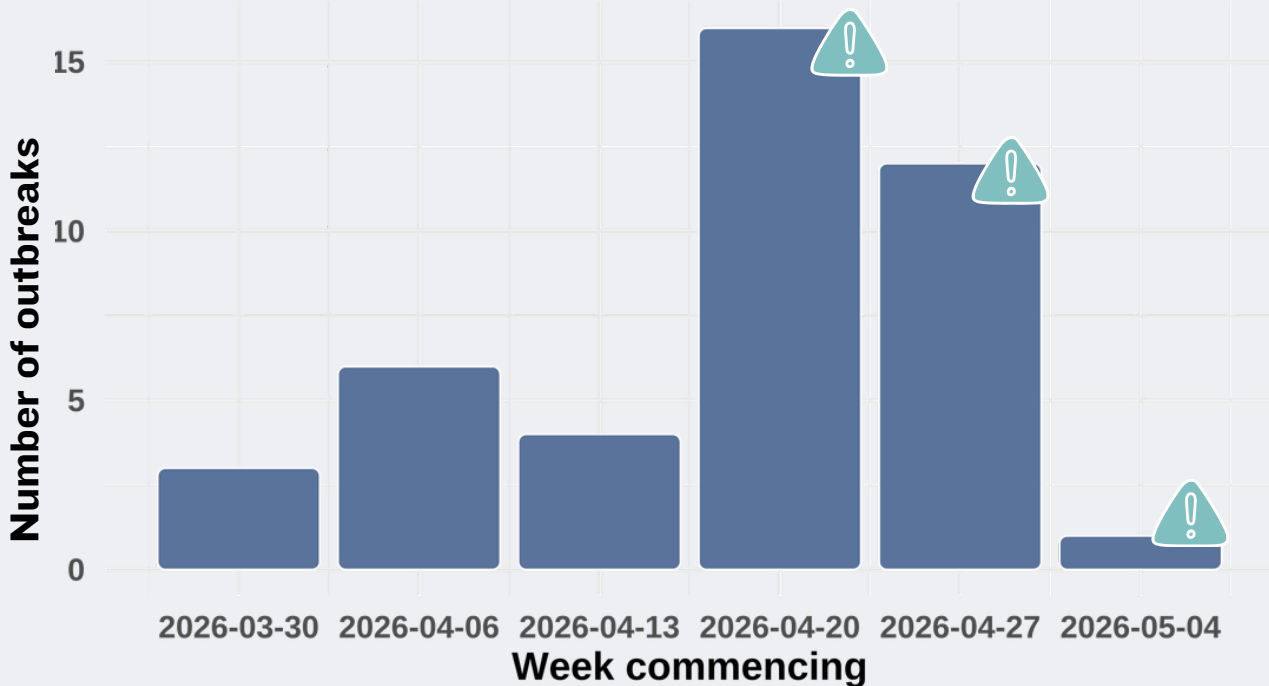


# UPDATE ON EQUINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS DETECTED IN THE UK IN APRIL 2026

## EIDS UPDATE: 07/05/2026

EIDS would like to thank veterinary practitioners who continue to report cases of equine influenza (EI) to Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS). Timely reporting remains critical for monitoring disease activity and ensuring the equine sector is kept informed of the evolving situation across the UK. Since early April 2026, EIDS has been notified of **44 laboratory-confirmed EI outbreaks affecting premises in 28 counties nationwide**.

### 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*

### CONTINUED REPORTS OF CONFIRMED OUTBREAKS SINCE OUR 30/04/2026 UPDATE



Details have been received and approved for reporting on a further 10 laboratory-confirmed outbreaks across six counties



Three of these counties had not previously reported EI during the current wave, indicating ongoing geographic spread (see page two)



Equine vets can call EIDS through our free advice service for outbreak management advice. Phone: 01223 766 496

*Free laboratory testing for suspected cases is available through the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) flu surveillance scheme, run by EIDS in conjunction with Rossdales Laboratories.*



*EIDS are also aware of eight further outbreaks, for which further details and reporting permissions are pending.*

# UPDATE ON EQUINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS DETECTED IN THE UK IN APRIL 2026

## EIDS UPDATE: 07/05/2026

The continued emergence of cases across a wide geographic area, combined with the strong association with recent horse movement, highlights the importance of movement-related risk during periods of heightened EI activity. However, it is important to note that equine influenza virus can spread over several kilometres under suitable conditions; therefore, infection should not be excluded in premises with no recent horse movement, particularly in regions with known local activity.

## RISK-BASED APPROACH

Horse owners, yard managers and veterinary surgeons are encouraged to adopt a risk-based approach when moving horses, particularly between premises, events and regions. Vigilance for early clinical signs, maintaining up-to-date vaccination status, and implementing isolation protocols for new arrivals remain essential components of disease control.

EIDS continues to encourage reporting of confirmed EI cases, together with permission to share anonymised data at county level. This enables the development of an accurate and timely national picture of EI activity.

## CURRENT OVERVIEW:

A substantial proportion of outbreaks (27/44; **61%**) continue **to involve horses that have recently moved premises** prior to the onset of clinical signs, reinforcing the role of horse movement in disease dissemination



Vaccination status:

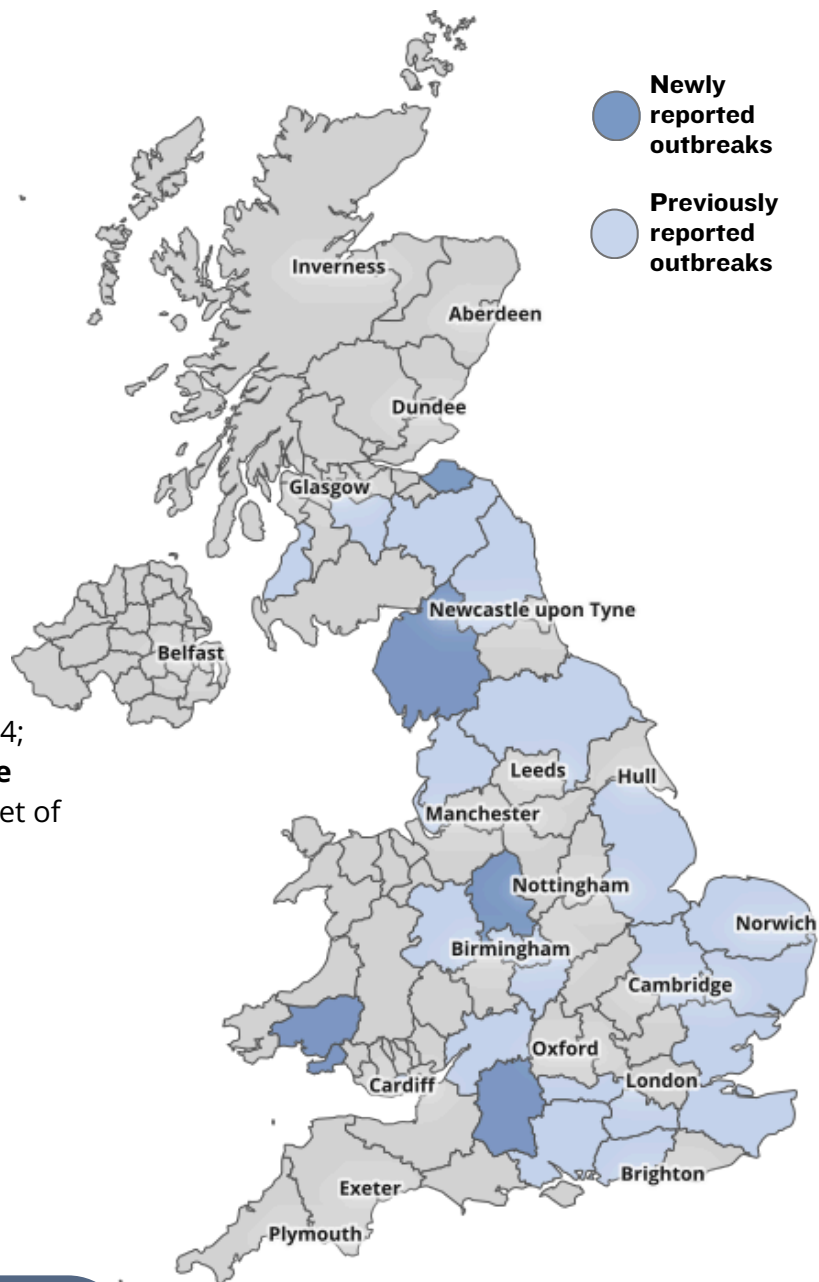
- 6 reported as vaccinated
- 21 reported as unvaccinated
- 17 with unknown vaccination status



One outbreak was confirmed using rapid in-house point-of-care test (LAMP)



**Our map below reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS between 29/03 - 05/05.** *Lighter shaded regions are previously reported outbreaks, darker regions are newly reported outbreaks in this update.*



*EIDS are also aware of eight further outbreaks, for which further details and reporting permissions are pending.*