

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

**EIDS UPDATE: 09/07/2026**

**PAGE 1/2**

## LOOKING AHEAD

Since 1 April 2026, Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) has received reports of **134 laboratory-confirmed equine influenza outbreaks across 57 UK counties**. EIDS is aware of a total of **184 confirmed outbreaks**, but epidemiological information and/or permission for anonymous reporting have not been received for all.

These figures represent only those outbreaks known to EIDS, and additional outbreaks are likely to have occurred. Continued reporting remains essential to provide the most accurate picture of disease activity across the UK. Encouragingly, despite recent sales, competitions and other large equestrian gatherings, **we have not seen a surge in reported outbreaks**.

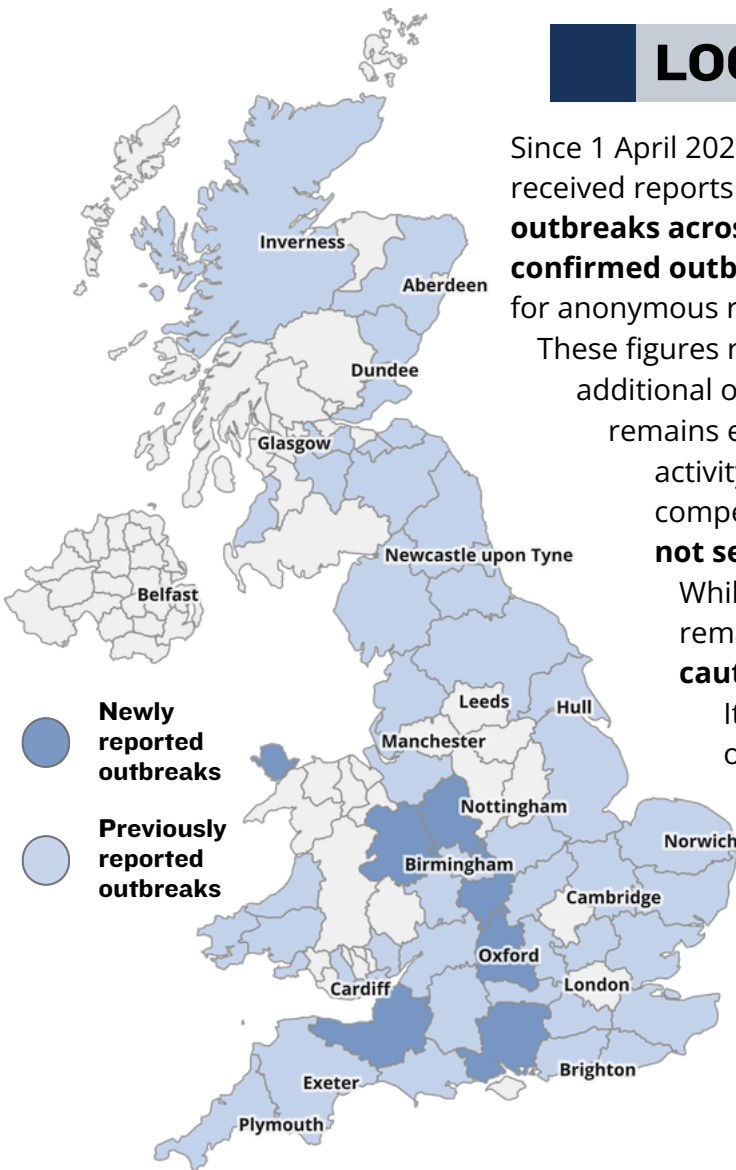
While new cases continue to be identified, reports have remained relatively steady, giving reason for **continued cautious optimism**.

It is particularly encouraging that a much higher proportion of outbreaks reported this week have been accompanied by permission for anonymous reporting.

**Thank you to everyone who has supported surveillance by allowing county-level outbreak information to be shared!**



Following reports of an increase in equine influenza (EI) cases among New Forest ponies, noted in EIDS update #9, laboratory investigations have now **confirmed EI infection in a couple of ponies found dead in the forest**. This finding highlights the **severe impact the virus can have on susceptible, semi-wild, free-roaming equine populations**, such as those in the New Forest, Dartmoor, Exmoor, and the Welsh mountains. While there has been heightened concern for vulnerable populations, including mixed stallions, mares, foals, and co-mingled donkeys, no deaths have thankfully been reported among the donkeys or foals, groups ordinarily considered at a higher risk for severe disease.



 **Newly reported outbreaks**

 **Previously reported outbreaks**

Our map above reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS between 29/03 - 08/07. *Lighter shaded regions are previously reported outbreaks, darker regions are newly reported outbreaks in this update.*

### Geographic spread

- The geographical footprint of the outbreak does continue to expand, with **Anglesey** and **Oxfordshire** becoming the latest counties to report confirmed outbreaks.

## PLEASE REPORT CASES

**Every outbreak reported strengthens understanding** and improves information

Report via our online disease reporting platform: <https://equinesurveillance.org/diseasereporting>



[www.equinesurveillance.org](http://www.equinesurveillance.org)



[equinesurveillance@vet.cam.ac.uk](mailto:equinesurveillance@vet.cam.ac.uk)

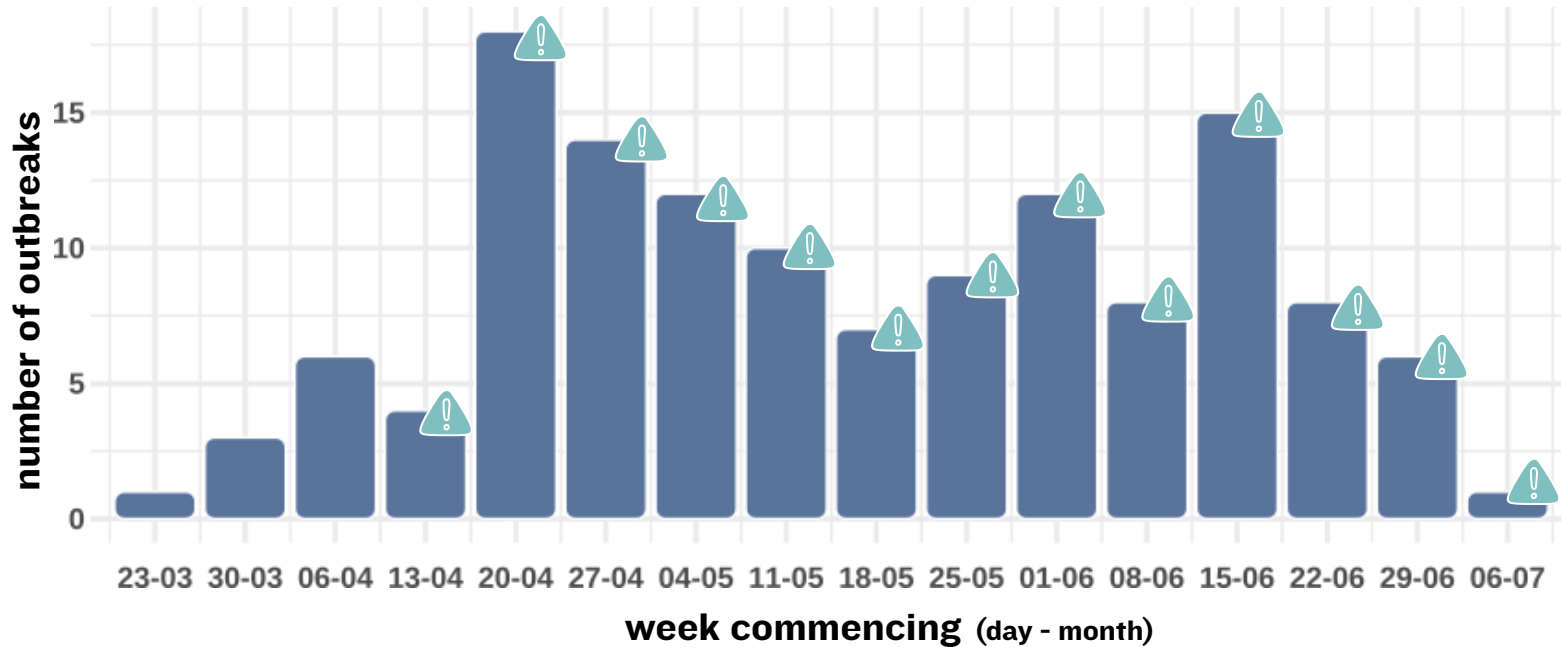


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PAGE 2/2

## 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 50 confirmed outbreaks** that are not included in this report

## HOLDING THE LINE

The absence of the anticipated surge in recently reported outbreaks is encouraging, but equine influenza continues to circulate. We must continue working together to drive outbreak numbers down.

**Appropriate vaccination, maintaining good biosecurity, investigating respiratory disease promptly and reporting confirmed outbreaks remain our most effective tools for reducing transmission.**

## KEY POINTS

### Vaccination status

- 17/134 (13%) were vaccinated
- 81/134 (60%) were unvaccinated
- 32/134 (24%) had unknown vaccination status
- 4/134 (3%) involved mixed groups of vaccinated and unvaccinated horses

### Movement history

- 84/134 (63%) involved horses with a recent history of travel
- 9/134 (7%) reported no recent movement
- 41/134 (31%) history unavailable



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 HBLB flu surveillance scheme, run by EIDS in conjunction with Rossdales Laboratories



**14/134 (10%) outbreaks were confirmed** using rapid in-house point-of-care tests (including LAMP and iPCR)

