

UPDATE ON EQUINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS DETECTED IN THE UK APRIL - JUNE 2026

EIDS UPDATE: 11/06/2026

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Thanks to the continued support of veterinary practices across the country, EIDS continues to receive reports of equine influenza (EI) outbreaks, allowing us to keep the industry informed of the current outlook.

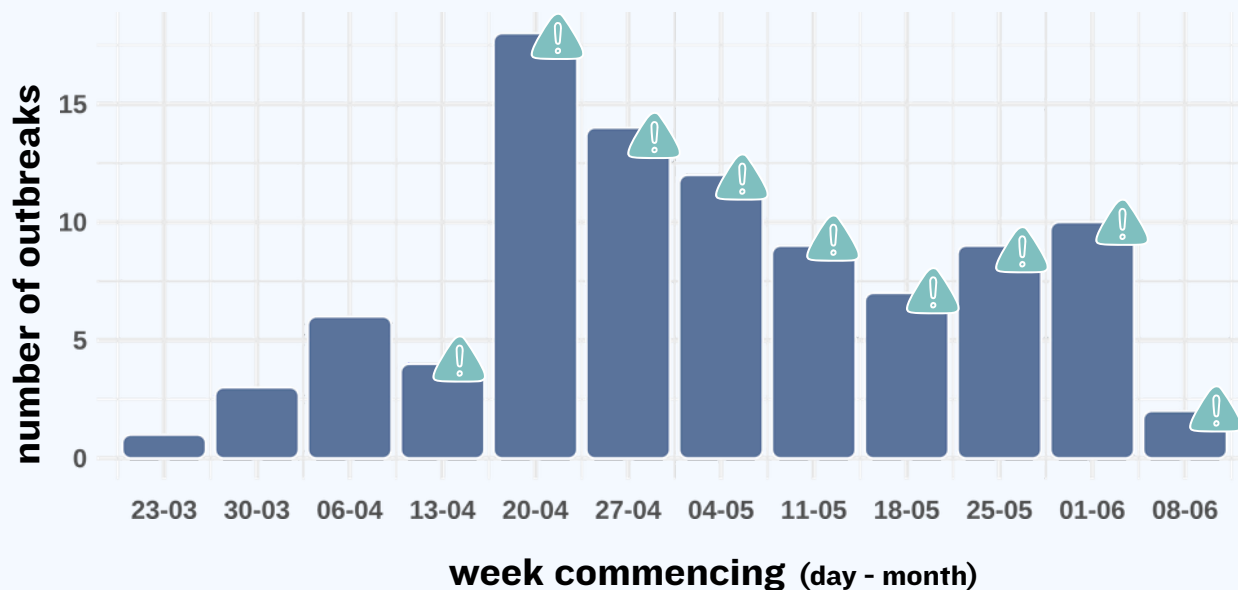
Since the beginning of April 2026, **a total of 95 laboratory-confirmed outbreaks have been identified across 45 UK counties**. While the number of weekly diagnosed outbreaks has fallen from the peak seen in April, equine influenza remains widespread across the UK and new areas continue to be affected. Since the last update, outbreaks have been **confirmed for the first time in Vale of Glamorgan and Northamptonshire**.



Importantly, EIDS has recently been made aware of **several confirmed cases** in horses **attending a major gathering in Cumbria**. As horses from many different regions mix at these events and then travel onward, **there is concern that further cases may emerge over the coming weeks**. For this reason, the recent reduction in reported outbreaks should not be interpreted as the end of the current outbreak, and horse owners and vets should remain vigilant.

EIDS is also aware of a **further 37 confirmed outbreaks** that are not included in this report as outbreak details and/or permission for anonymous reporting have not yet been provided or granted.

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

These additional cases mean that the **true level of influenza activity is higher than currently reported**.



Free laboratory testing for suspected cases is available through the HBLB flu surveillance scheme, run by EIDS alongside Rosssdales Laboratories.

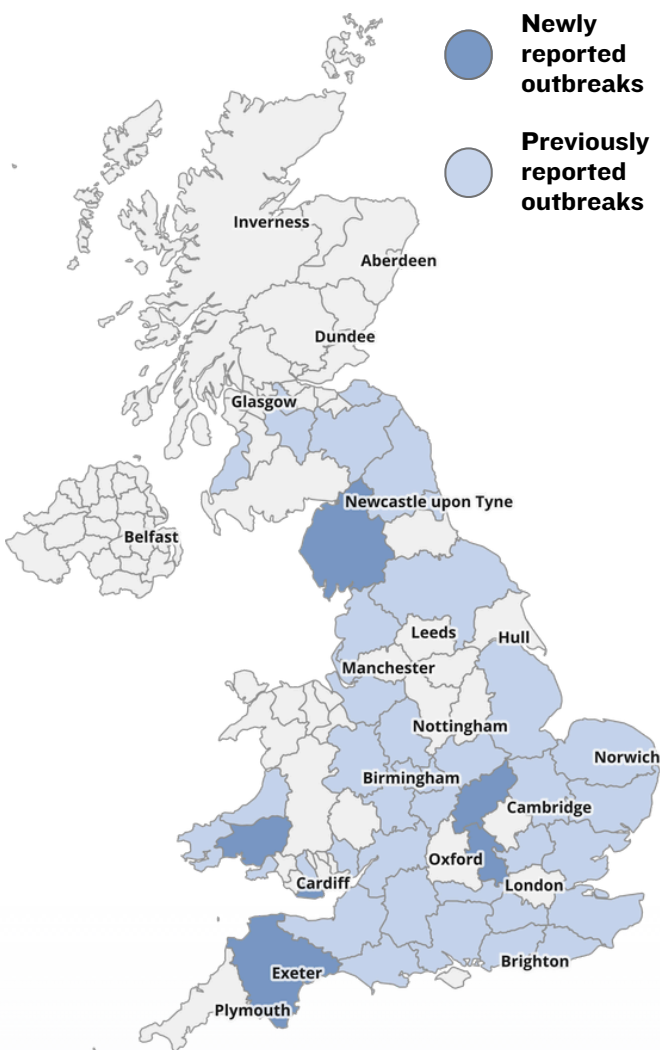
WHAT DO THE CURRENT TRENDS MEAN?

Although outbreak numbers appeared to lower during May compared to April, recent reports suggest that EI is continuing to circulate actively. The **confirmation of cases in horses that recently attended major gatherings** is particularly concerning, as it raises the possibility that **further infections may already have been spread to other areas of the country but have not yet been detected**. A similar pattern was seen during the 2019 UK equine influenza outbreak, when an apparent improvement was followed by a further increase in cases associated with horse movements and events. At present, there is a real possibility that additional outbreaks will be identified over the coming weeks, particularly in horses that have recently travelled or mixed with others at shows, competitions, sales and training venues.

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Our map reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS that were sampled between 29/03 and 09/06. *Lighter shaded regions are previously reported outbreaks, darker regions are newly reported outbreaks in this update.*

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



Since the previous update on 5 June 2026, EIDS has received approval to report a further six confirmed outbreaks across six different counties



Recent horse movement and lack of vaccination remain the most common factors identified in affected horses



EIDS is also concerned about continued influenza activity within the New Forest area, where several outbreaks have now been identified

Owners of horses that attended sales, shows, competitions or other gatherings during early June should remain alert for signs of respiratory disease and seek veterinary advice if any concerns arise.

EIDS ADVICE

- Ensure flu **vaccinations are up to date**
- Monitor horses closely** for signs of respiratory disease and record temperatures regularly
- Isolate** any horse showing **signs of illness** and seek veterinary advice promptly
- Isolate and monitor new arrivals** where possible
- Carefully **consider the risks associated with horse movements** while influenza activity remains high
- Particular caution is advised** for horses that have recently attended shows, competitions, sales or other large gatherings

CURRENT OVERVIEW



Movement history

- **62/95 (65%)** involved horses with a recent history of travel
- 30/95 had no travel history available
- 3/95 involved horses which had no recent travel history



Vaccination status

- 9/95 (**9%**) were vaccinated
- 63/95 (**66%**) were unvaccinated
- 2/95 involved a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated horses
- 21/95 had unknown vaccination status



12/95 outbreaks were confirmed

using rapid in-house point-of-care tests (including LAMP and iPCR), reflecting the use of rapid diagnostics to support timely outbreak recognition and management

