

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

EIDS UPDATE: 14/05/2026

EIDS continue to receive notifications of equine influenza (EI) outbreaks from across the UK, and we thank veterinary practitioners for their ongoing support with case reporting and submission of outbreak information. Continued surveillance and timely reporting remain essential for monitoring national disease activity and informing the wider equine sector. Since the beginning of April 2026, **a total of 60 laboratory-confirmed EI outbreaks have been identified across 34 counties**, demonstrating sustained national circulation of equine influenza virus.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



Since the previous update issued on 07/05/2026, EIDS has received reporting approval for a further 16 confirmed outbreaks spanning 14 counties



Notably, six of these counties had not previously reported EI during the current outbreak period, providing further evidence that disease activity continues to expand geographically



Additional reporting has been received from a previously identified outbreak.

CURRENT OVERVIEW:

Analysis of the outbreaks reported to date continues to identify recent **horse movements as a significant epidemiological feature**. **35/60 (58%)** outbreaks involved horses that had a recent history of travel, supporting the role of horse movement in the spread between premises and regions.

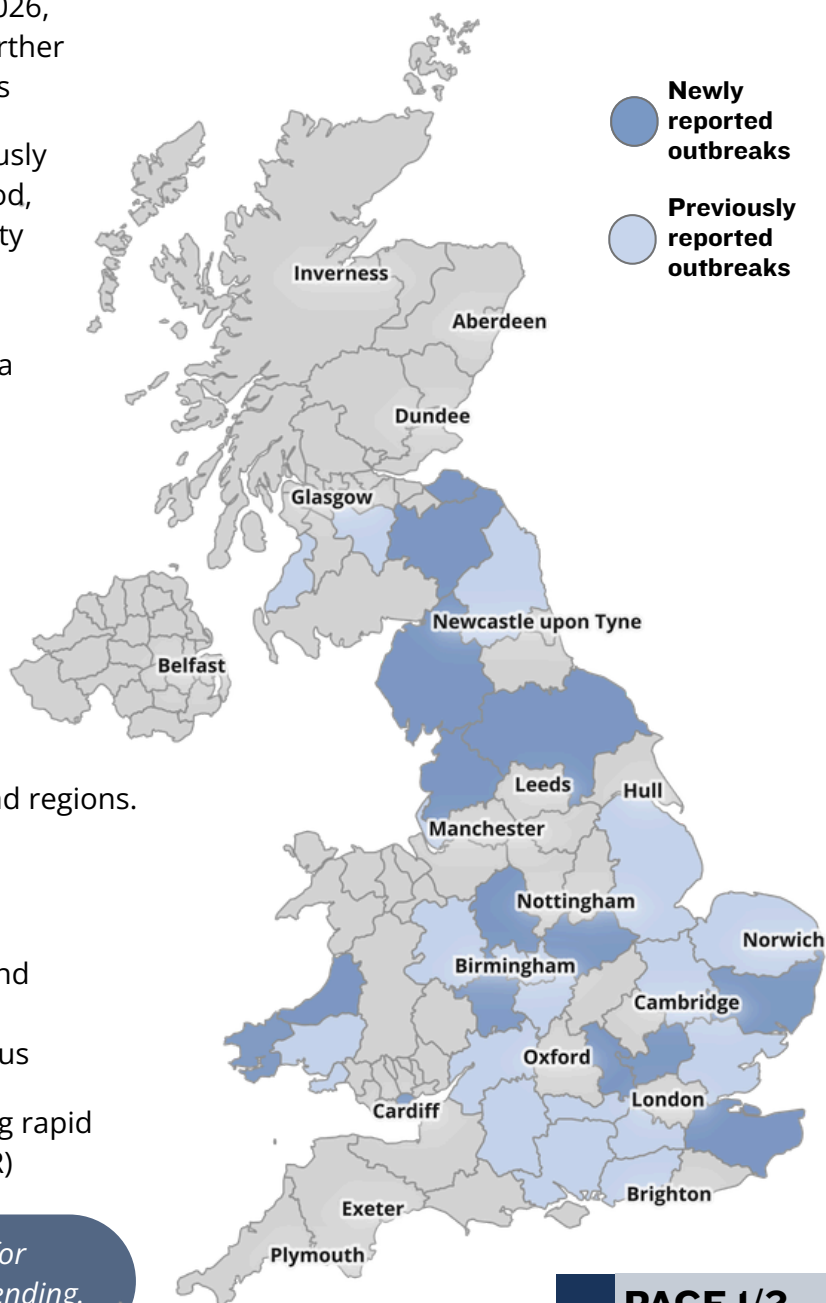
VACCINATION STATUS:

- 6/60 reported as vaccinated
- 36/60 reported as unvaccinated
- 2/60 reported as mixed vaccinated and unvaccinated horses
- 16/60 with unknown vaccination status



10/60 outbreaks have been confirmed using rapid in-house point-of-care test (LAMP and iPCR)

Our map below reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS between 29/03 - 14/05. *Lighter shaded regions are previously reported outbreaks, darker regions are newly reported outbreaks in this update.*

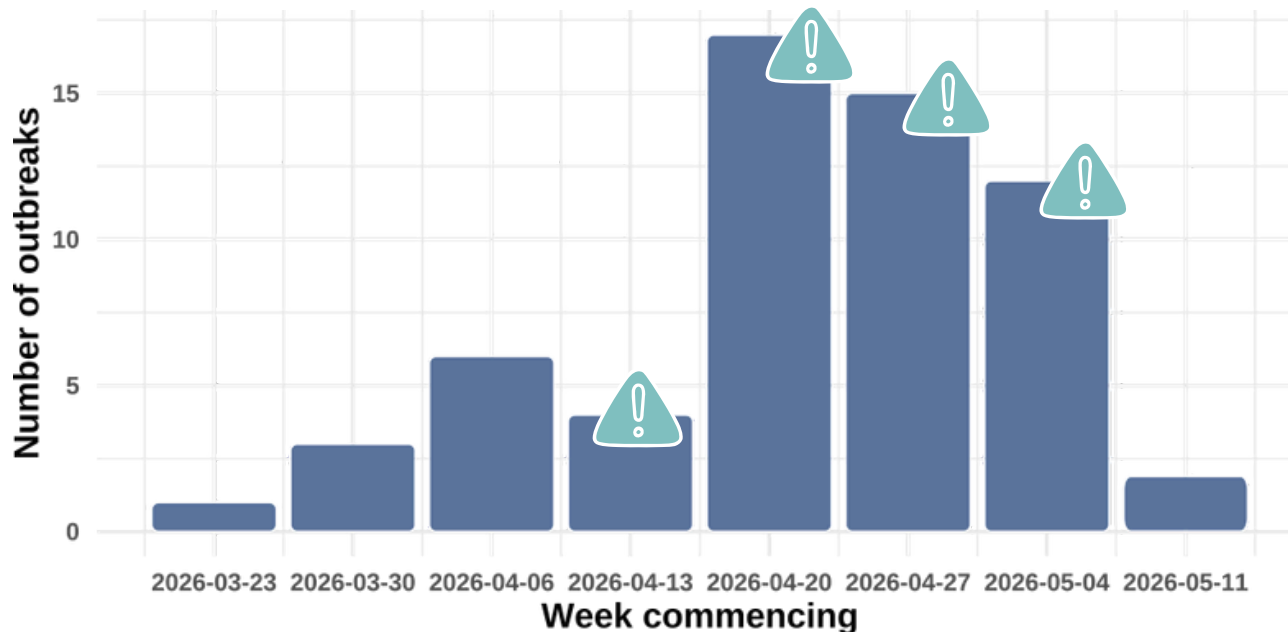


EIDS are also aware of sixteen further outbreaks, for which further details and reporting permissions are pending.

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OUTBREAKS PER WEEK BY SAMPLING DATE



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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

The continued identification of outbreaks across a broad geographic area **highlights the importance of maintaining heightened awareness for EI**, particularly where horses are travelling to competitions, sales, training yards or other multi-horse environments.

While movement-associated transmission remains a prominent feature of the current outbreak picture, it is important to recognise that **equine influenza virus may also spread locally over several kilometres** under favourable environmental conditions. Consequently, EI should remain a differential diagnosis in horses showing compatible clinical signs, even in the absence of recent movement history.

REVIEW BIOSECURITY MEASURES

Horse owners, trainers, yard managers and veterinary surgeons are encouraged to review biosecurity measures carefully, including:



ensuring vaccinations are up to date



monitoring horses closely for early respiratory signs



isolating new arrivals appropriately



considering movement risks during periods of increased EI activity

EIDS continues to **encourage reporting of confirmed EI outbreaks**, together with permission to share anonymised county-level data, to support the development of an accurate and timely national overview of equine influenza activity. **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.

