

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

EIDS UPDATE: 18/06/2026

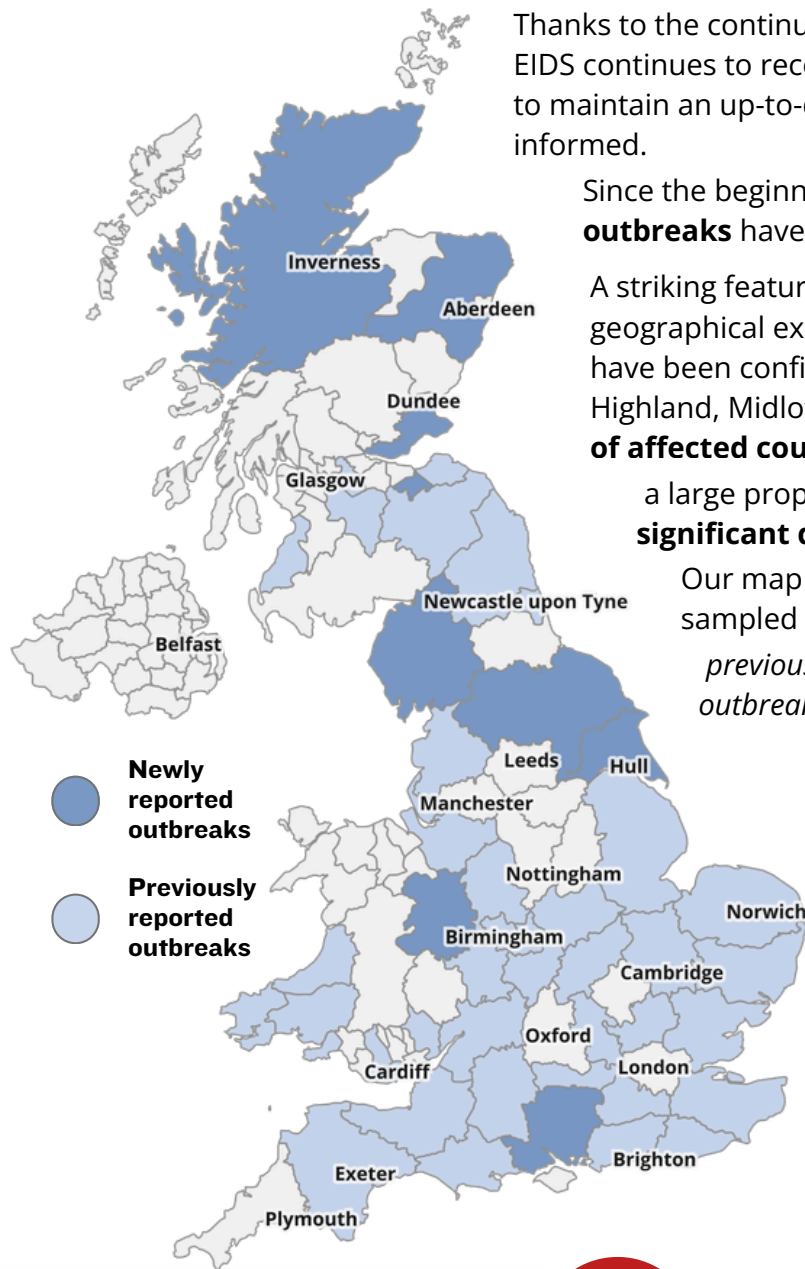
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Thanks to the continued support of veterinary practices across the country, EIDS continues to receive reports of equine influenza (EI) outbreaks, helping to maintain an up-to-date picture of disease activity and keep the industry informed.

Since the beginning of April 2026, a total of **105 laboratory-confirmed outbreaks** have been identified.

A striking feature of the current outbreak is its continued geographical expansion. Since our update one week ago, outbreaks have been confirmed for the first time in Fife, Aberdeenshire, Highland, Midlothian and East Yorkshire, bringing the **total number of affected counties to 50**. With outbreaks documented across such a large proportion of UK counties, **equine influenza remains a significant disease threat** to all sectors of the equine industry.

Our map reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS that were sampled between 29/03 and 17/06. *Lighter shaded regions are previously reported outbreaks, darker regions are newly reported outbreaks in this update.*



CURRENT OVERVIEW



Vaccination status

- 10/105 (9.5%) were vaccinated
- 69/105 (66%) were unvaccinated



Movement history

- 70/105 (67%) involved horses with a recent history of travel



12/105 outbreaks were confirmed

using rapid in-house point-of-care tests (including LAMP and iPCR)

EIDS is also aware of a **further 39 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.

These additional cases indicate that the true level of influenza activity is likely to be significantly higher than currently reflected in reported figures.



A particularly significant development this week has been the **confirmation of a clinical case of influenza in a vaccinated Thoroughbred** that attended a sale in Ireland the previous week. This is the first reported involvement closely associated with the racing population during the current outbreak.

Through their veterinary surgeon, the affected yard responded rapidly and the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) are **being proactive in assessing and minimising the risk of onward spread** of the virus through racing. It is clear that the coming weeks will be crucial in implementing measures to successfully contain the infection across all sectors.

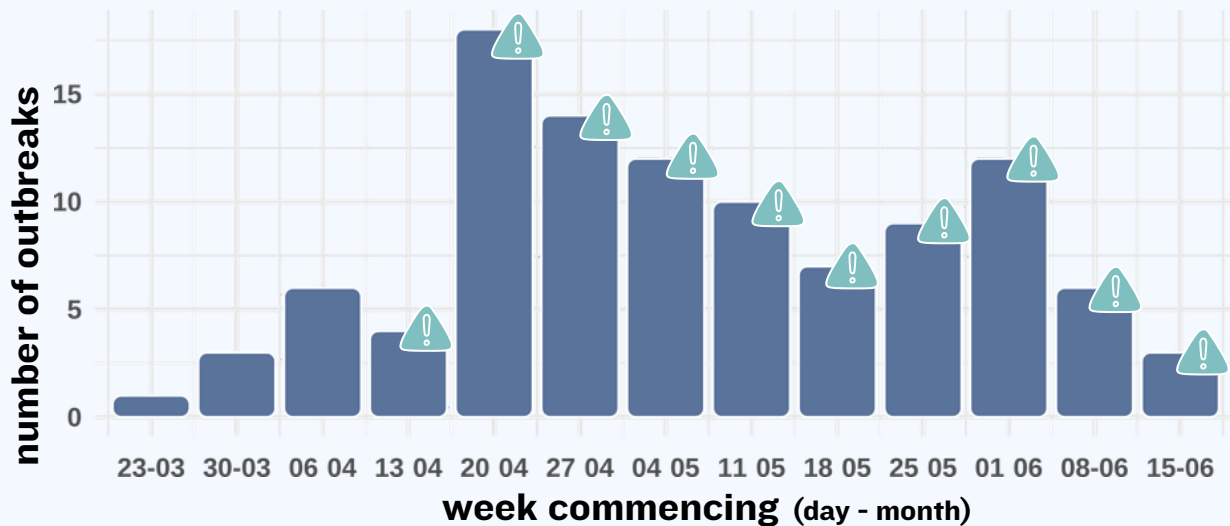


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OUTBREAKS PER WEEK BY SAMPLING DATE




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 39 confirmed outbreaks** that are not included in this report


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

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS


CURRENT TRENDS

 Since the previous update on 11/06/2026, EIDS has received approval to report a further nine confirmed outbreaks across nine different counties


The current outbreak continues to be characterised by extensive geographical spread. Two-thirds of reported outbreaks have involved horses with a recent history of travel, reinforcing the role equine movement and gatherings can play in disseminating infection.

 Five of these counties had not previously reported equine influenza during the current outbreak period, demonstrating continued geographical expansion of disease activity


With 105 confirmed outbreaks now reported across 50 counties, the outbreak is becoming increasingly dispersed across the country.

 Movement-associated transmission is continuing to introduce infection into previously unaffected regions

The first reported case within the racing population is also an important epidemiological development.

 One outbreak from a previous reporting cycle has now received reporting permissions

While vaccination remains highly effective at reducing disease risk and severity, this case serves as a reminder that influenza should remain a differential diagnosis in horses with compatible clinical signs, regardless of vaccination status.

 The first reported case linked to the racing population highlights that no sector of the equine industry is isolated from the current outbreak

The coming weeks will be critical in determining the future trajectory of the outbreak. Continued vigilance, rapid diagnosis and robust biosecurity measures will be essential to limit further spread and protect the health of the UK horse population.