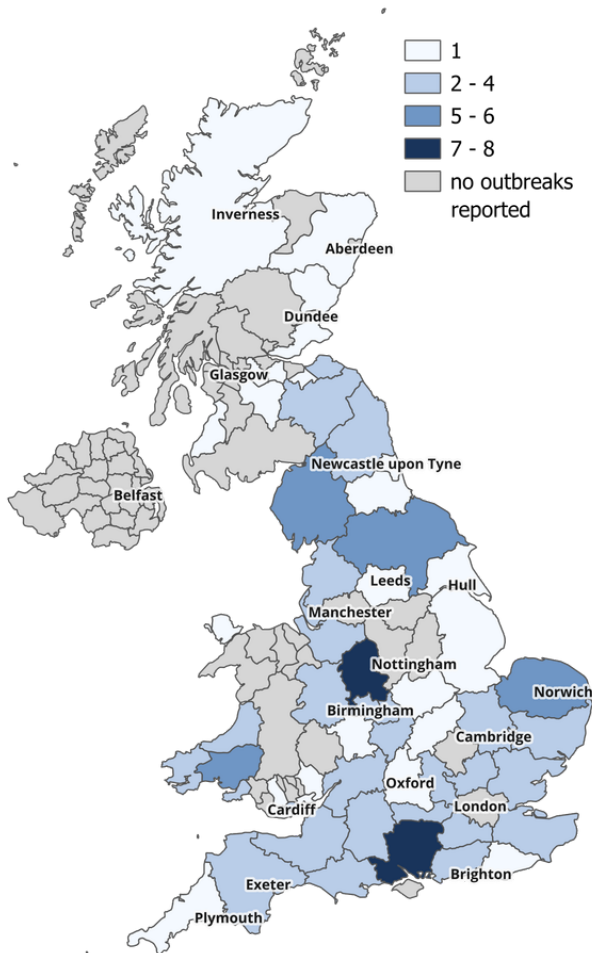


UPDATE ON EQUINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS DETECTED IN THE UK SPRING/SUMMER 2026

EIDS UPDATE: 20/08/2026

The current UK equine influenza outbreak began in April 2026 and has been one of the most geographically widespread outbreaks seen in recent years. As of 20 August 2026, we have received reports of 136 laboratory-confirmed outbreaks across 57 UK counties. We are also aware of a further 46 confirmed outbreaks where permission to report the details has not been granted. Importantly these figures only include outbreaks reported to, or otherwise made known to, EIDS, so the true number will be higher.



Our map reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS between 29/03 - 20/08, with regions shaded by the number of reported outbreaks.

Despite extensive horse movement and large gatherings over the summer, we have not seen the anticipated surge in reported outbreaks, and the last reported outbreak was over a week ago.

STILL ONGOING CIRCULATION

There are still concerns about **ongoing virus circulation in the New Forest**, including reports of ponies found dead that subsequently tested positive for equine influenza. Importantly, influenza has **not been definitively established as the cause of those deaths**.

CONTINUED VIGILANCE

The message for now is **continued vigilance**. This is a good time to **review vaccination status, strengthen biosecurity, quarantine new arrivals and monitor horses** for respiratory signs.

Please continue to report confirmed cases to EIDS, including those diagnosed using point-of-care testing such as LAMP and iiPCR.

Every outbreak reported strengthens understanding and improves information
Report via our online disease reporting platform:
<https://equinesurveillance.org/diseasereporting>



KEY FINDINGS

The outbreak has been strongly associated with recent horse movement and lack of vaccination, with many outbreaks involving horses known to be unvaccinated. In almost a quarter of outbreaks, vaccination status was unknown, so some of these will have also involved unvaccinated horses.

Movement history

 **61%** of outbreaks involved horses with a **recent history of travel** (83/136)

Vaccination status

63% of outbreaks involved **unvaccinated horses** (including mixed groups of vaccinated and unvaccinated horses) (87/136)



Diagnostics

120 confirmed via qPCR
16 confirmed via LAMP or iiPCR
39 confirmed via HBLB scheme

