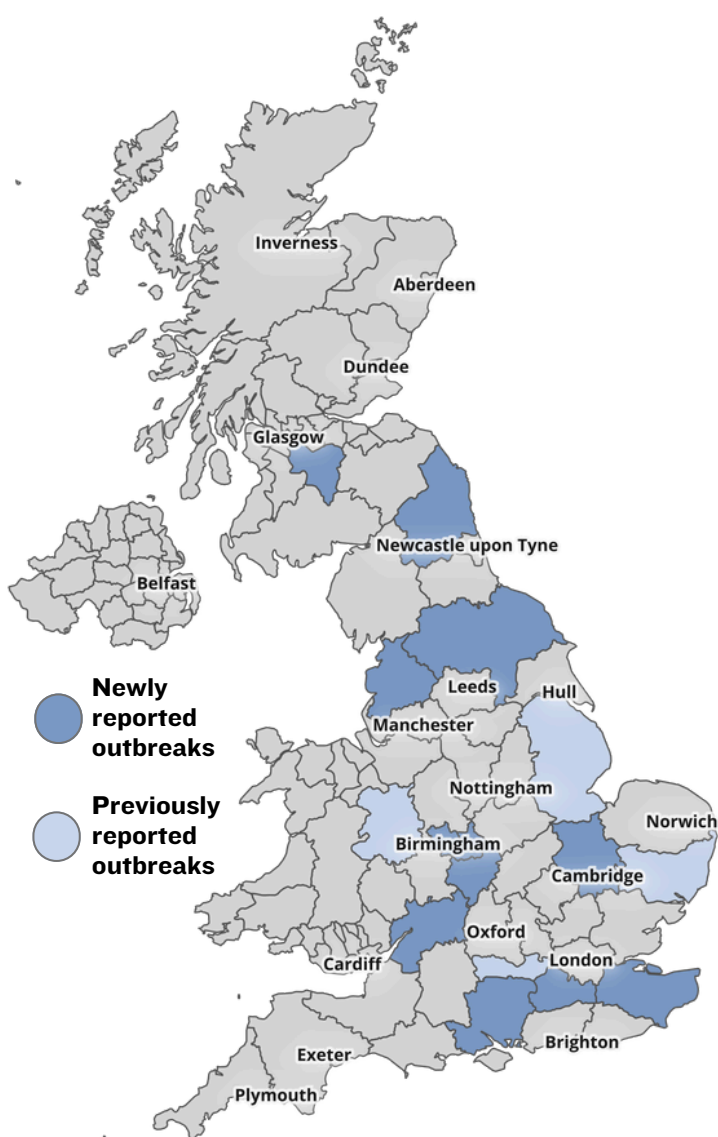


UPDATE ON EQUINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS DETECTED IN THE UK IN APRIL 2026

EIDS UPDATE: 23/04/2026

Thank you to those vets who have kindly reported cases of equine influenza (EI) to Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS). This information is invaluable in helping us to monitor evolving outbreaks and keep you all updated on the emerging situation with EI in the UK. Since the beginning of April 2026, EIDS has received details from **21 confirmed outbreaks of equine influenza (EI)** on premises across 15 counties in the UK.

Our map below reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS between 29/03 - 22/04. **Lighter shaded regions are previously reported outbreaks, darker regions are newly reported outbreaks in this update.**



Equine vets can call EIDS through our free advice service for outbreak management advice.
Phone: 01223 766 496



POINTS OF NOTE:

Relating to the 12 newly reported outbreaks



A notable increase in confirmed outbreaks has been observed in the UK this week

Since our last update on 17 April, EIDS has received details and approval to report on 12 further outbreaks confirmed through laboratory testing



Outbreaks reported in new areas

including six previously unaffected counties



Of the newly reported outbreaks

nine out of twelve involved horses that have recently moved premises



Vaccination status

- 2/12 were vaccinated
- 6/12 were unvaccinated
- 4/12 had unknown vaccination status



One of twelve outbreaks

was confirmed using a rapid in-house point-of-care test (LAMP)



Ongoing reports of equine influenza

in France, Germany, and the Netherlands highlighting continued EI activity in Europe



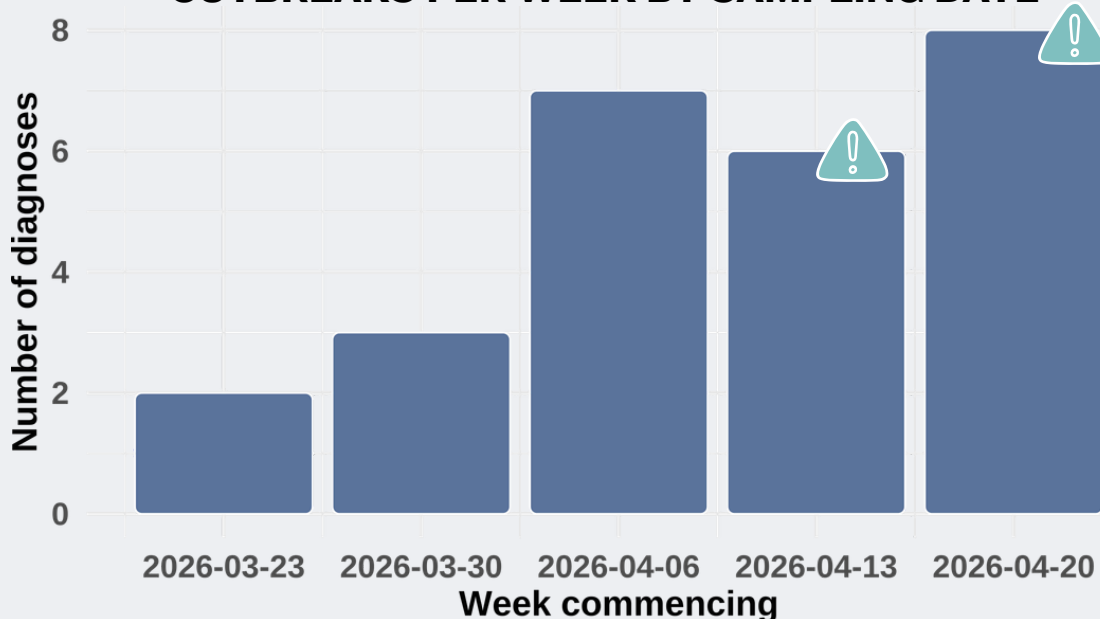
EIDS are also aware of five additional outbreaks, including further previously unaffected counties; however, details and permission to report are still pending

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

EIDS UPDATE: 23/04/2026

With cases continuing to emerge across multiple UK counties, alongside ongoing circulation of EI in Europe, the **industry is urged to remain vigilant**. Horse owners and those working with horses should monitor for clinical signs of equine influenza, ensure vaccinations are up to date, and minimise unnecessary horse movements.

OUTBREAKS PER WEEK BY SAMPLING DATE



EIDS greatly welcomes the reporting of confirmed cases and permission to report anonymously at the county level. This helps us provide the most up to date and accurate information on current EI activity in the UK.

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



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.

TAKE HOME MESSAGES:



Infected horses will spread the virus through coughing and typically shed the virus for up to 10 days, but this can be longer.



Infected horses should be isolated until your vet advises they are no longer infected.



All horse movements on and off the yard should be stopped.



Monitor all horses for clinical signs and record their rectal temperatures daily; they should be less than 38.5° C.



Ensure vaccines are up to date and discuss with your vet if it has been greater than six months since your horses last vaccine, as a booster may be indicated.

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HORSE OWNER RESOURCE

Did you know EIDS has an equine influenza information summarising key information for horse owners? Please share with your clients. Available on our website or click [HERE](#)



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