

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

**EIDS UPDATE: 25/06/2026**

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Since the beginning of April 2026, EIDS has received reports of **116 laboratory-confirmed outbreaks across 53 UK counties**. However, the most significant challenge in assessing the current outbreak is the growing number of confirmed cases that cannot be included in national reporting. EIDS is aware of **a further 50 laboratory-confirmed outbreaks for which outbreak details and/or permission for anonymous reporting have not been received**.


This means that while 116 outbreaks are currently included in national updates, EIDS is aware of 166 confirmed outbreaks since April. **In other words, nearly one-third of all confirmed outbreaks known to EIDS are currently absent from published reports.**


The consequences extend far beyond outbreak numbers. Without permission to include these outbreaks in our analyses, information on vaccination status, horse movements, links between outbreaks and geographical spread is lost. These data are an invaluable component of outbreak surveillance, helping to identify risk factors, track patterns of spread and provide evidence-based epidemiological advice to the wider industry.


## PLEASE REPORT CASES

EIDS strongly encourages veterinary surgeons and horse owners to provide permission for anonymous reporting of confirmed cases. **Every outbreak reported strengthens our understanding** of the disease situation and improves the information available to the industry to protect the equine population, help limit further spread and ideally bring this outbreak to a close as quickly as possible.

Report via our online disease reporting platform:  
<https://equinesurveillance.org/diseasereporting>

 Since the previous update on 18/06/2026, EIDS has received approval to report a further ten confirmed outbreaks across ten different counties.

 One outbreak from a previous reporting cycle has now received reporting permission and has subsequently been added to the national dataset - Thank you!

 Recent horse movement and lack of vaccination remain the most commonly identified features of affected premises.

## CURRENT OVERVIEW



### Vaccination status

- 12/116 (**10%**) were vaccinated
- 73/116 (**63%**) were unvaccinated



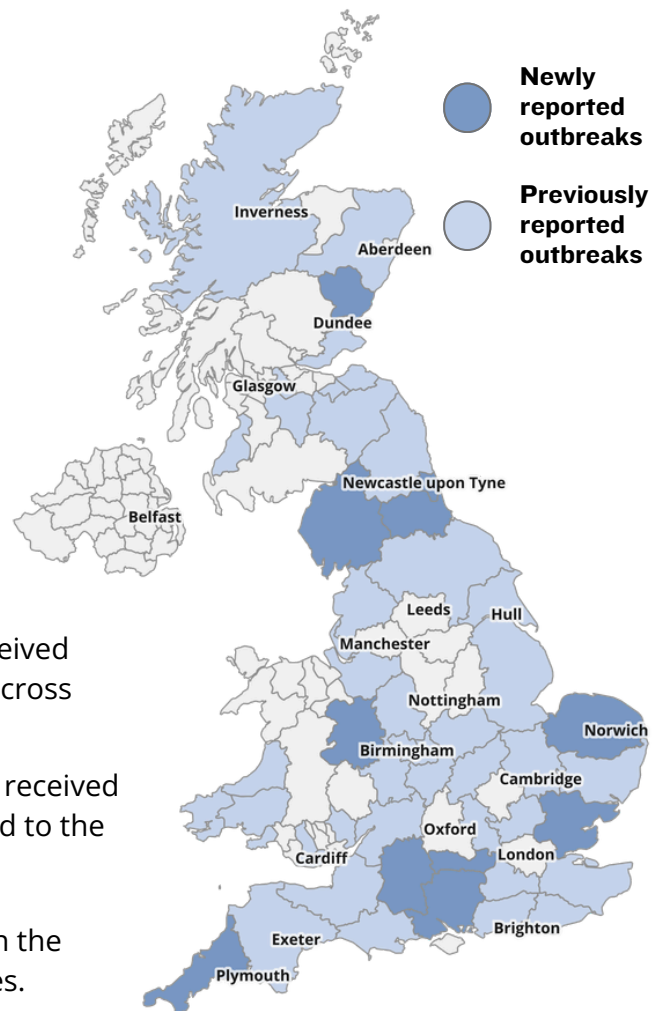
### Movement history

- **76/116 (66%)** involved horses with a recent history of travel



### Geographic spread

- **Angus, Cornwall and Durham** had not previously reported equine influenza during the current outbreak period



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This sustained outbreak of equine influenza continues to affect a wide geographical area across the UK. The continued appearance of infection in previously unaffected areas indicates that horse movement remains an important driver of disease spread.

Analysis of the reported outbreaks continues to identify recent travel and lack of vaccination as the most consistent epidemiological features, with 76 of 116 reported outbreaks (66%) involving horses that had travelled prior to diagnosis and 73 of 116 (63%) involving horses that are unvaccinated or with lapsed vaccinations.

The increasing geographical distribution of outbreaks suggests that movement-associated transmission continues to introduce infection into previously unaffected areas. Continued vigilance, prompt investigation of suspected cases and robust biosecurity measures remain essential, particularly during periods of increased horse movement and mixing.

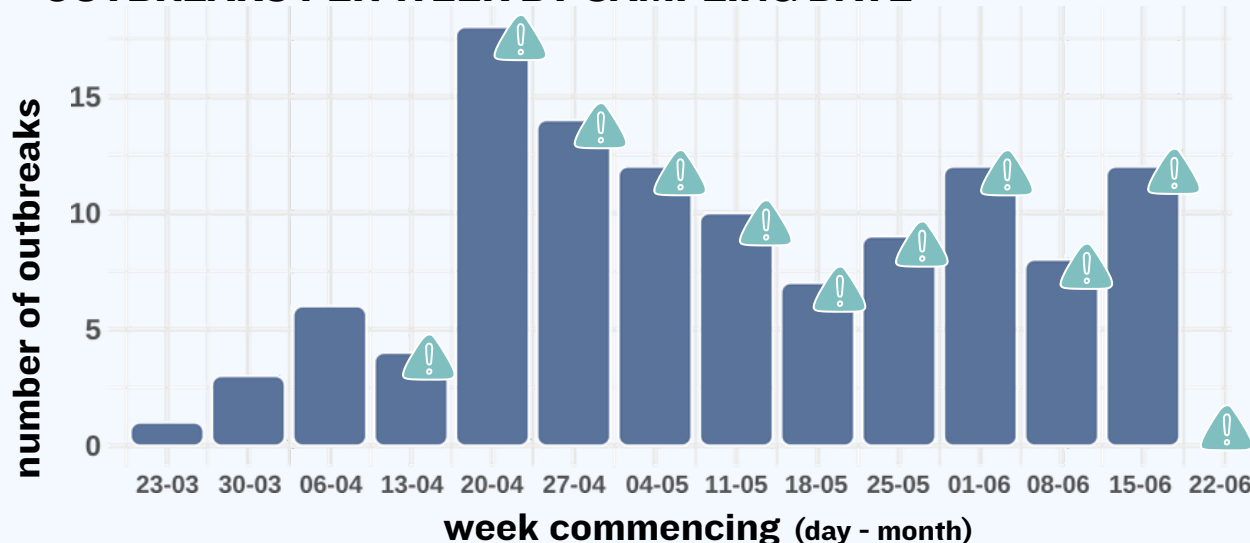
## EIDS ADVICE

- ! 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
- ! Read our [influenza information sheet](#)

## HBLB FLU SURVEILLANCE SCHEME

EIDS continues to encourage reporting of confirmed outbreaks and permission to share anonymised county-level data. **Free laboratory testing** for suspected cases remains available through the HBLB flu surveillance scheme run by EIDS and Rosssdales Laboratories.

## 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 50 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

