

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

## EIDS UPDATE: 28/05/2026

EIDS continues to receive notifications of equine influenza (EI) outbreaks from across the UK and thanks veterinary practitioners for their continued support with surveillance, testing and reporting activities.

Since the beginning of April 2026, a total of **74 laboratory-confirmed EI outbreaks** have been identified across multiple UK counties.

Our map below reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS between 29/03 - 27/05. *Lighter shaded regions are previously reported outbreaks, darker regions are newly reported outbreaks in this update.*



EIDS is also aware of a **further 26 confirmed outbreaks** that are not included in this report because outbreak details and/or permission for anonymous reporting have not yet been provided or granted.

Although weekly outbreak numbers based on sampling date continue to show signs of slowing, the epidemiological picture remains active and evolving. **Importantly, new counties continue to be affected, demonstrating that geographic spread** is still occurring despite a reduction in the apparent rate of new confirmed reports.

## CURRENT OVERVIEW



**Outbreaks reported in new areas** including two previously unaffected counties



### Movement history

- 44/74 (**59%**) involved horses with a recent history of travel
- 27/74 had no travel history available
- 3/74 involved horses which had no recent travel history

These findings continue to support horse movement as a major driver of disease dissemination between premises and regions. However, outbreaks without recent travel history reinforce that EI should remain a differential diagnosis even in apparently closed populations.



### Vaccination status

- 8/74 (11%) were vaccinated
- 46/74 (62%) were unvaccinated
- 2/74 involved a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated horses
- 18/74 had unknown vaccination status

The predominance of outbreaks involving unvaccinated horses continues to emphasise the importance of maintaining current vaccination coverage across all sectors of the equine population.

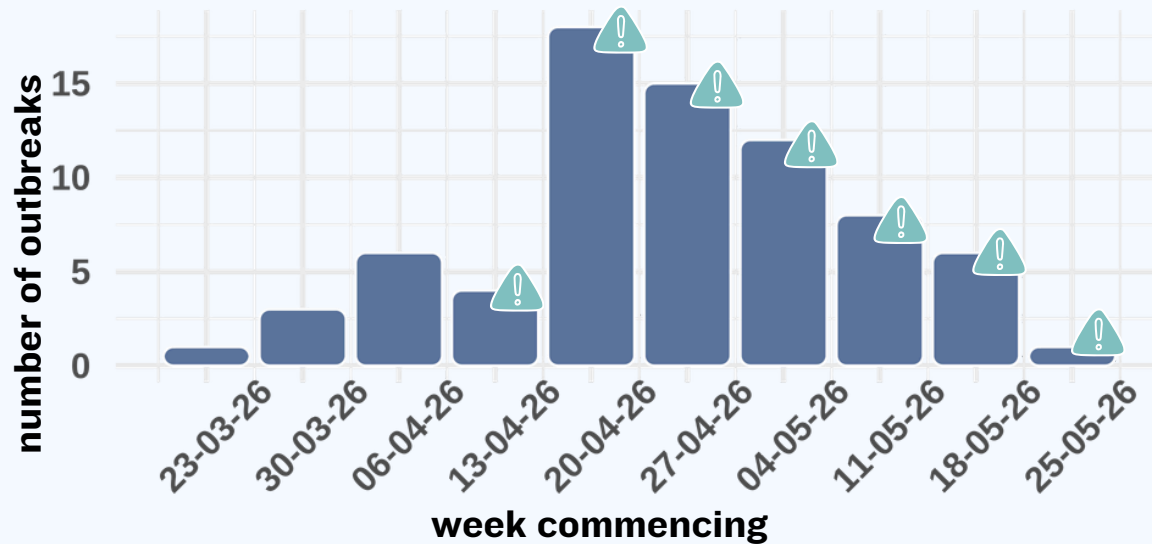


**Eleven outbreaks were confirmed** using rapid in-house point-of-care tests (including LAMP and iPCR)

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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*



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Equine vets can call EIDS through our **free advice service** for outbreak management advice.


**Phone:** 01223  
766 496




**Free laboratory testing** for suspected cases is available through the HBLB flu surveillance scheme, run by EIDS in conjunction with Rossdale Laboratories.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

 Since the previous update issued on 21 May 2026, EIDS has received approval to report a further five confirmed outbreaks across five counties.

 Notably, **two of these counties had not previously reported EI during the current outbreak period**, highlighting continued regional expansion of disease activity and reinforcing the importance of maintaining vigilance nationwide.

 **Recent horse movement remains one of the most consistent epidemiological features** identified across outbreaks investigated by EIDS.

## INTERPRETING CURRENT TRENDS

Although recent surveillance data suggest reported outbreak activity may be declining, interpretation should remain cautious. A similar pattern was observed during the 2019 UK EI outbreak before a subsequent resurgence.

Reporting delays or fatigue may also contribute to an apparent reduction in confirmed cases.

Continued testing and reporting remain essential to maintain an accurate and up-to-date picture of national EI activity.

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### HORSE OWNER RESOURCE

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

