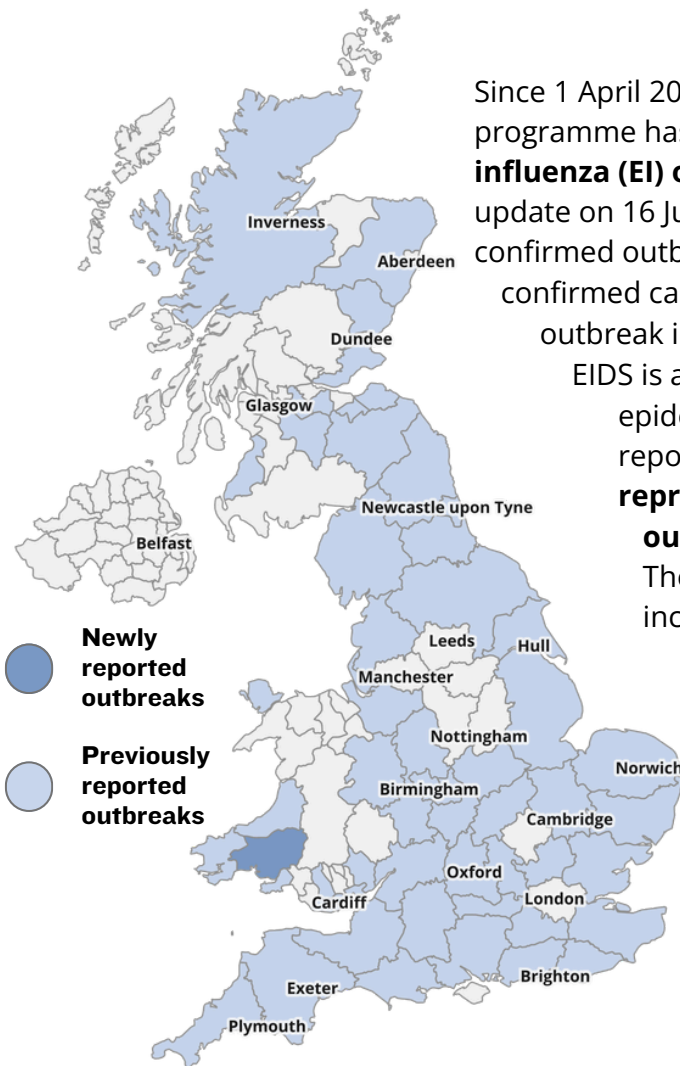


UPDATE ON EQUINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS DETECTED IN THE UK SPRING/SUMMER 2026

EIDS UPDATE: 29/07/2026



Since 1 April 2026, the Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) programme has **received reports of 135 laboratory-confirmed equine influenza (EI) outbreaks across 57 UK counties**. Since the previous update on 16 July, EIDS has received reports of one additional laboratory-confirmed outbreak in Carmarthenshire, together with six additional confirmed cases in fallen stock associated with a previously reported outbreak in Hampshire.

EIDS is aware of 185 confirmed outbreaks in total, although epidemiological information and/or permission for anonymous reporting have not been received for every case. **These figures represent only outbreaks known to EIDS, and additional outbreaks are likely to have occurred.**

The surveillance picture remains encouraging. Despite the increased opportunities for **disease spread associated with summer horse movement and mixing**, the anticipated surge in reported outbreaks has not materialised.

While equine influenza continues to circulate, there is **reason for cautious optimism**.

Our map reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS between 29/03 - 24/07. *Lighter shaded regions are previously reported outbreaks, darker regions are newly reported outbreaks in this update.*

KEY POINTS



60% (81/135) of reported outbreaks occurred in unvaccinated horses

Vaccination status

- 17/135 (13%) were vaccinated
- 81/135 (60%) were unvaccinated
- 33/135 (24%) had unknown vaccination status
- 4/135 (3%) involved mixed groups of vaccinated and unvaccinated horses



62% (83/135) of affected premises had a recent history of horse movement

REMAIN CAUTIOUS

The reports of six further New Forest ponies being found dead and subsequently testing positive for equine influenza provide a timely reminder that, although a definitive link between equine influenza and the cause of death has not been established, the virus can have a significant impact, particularly in naïve populations.

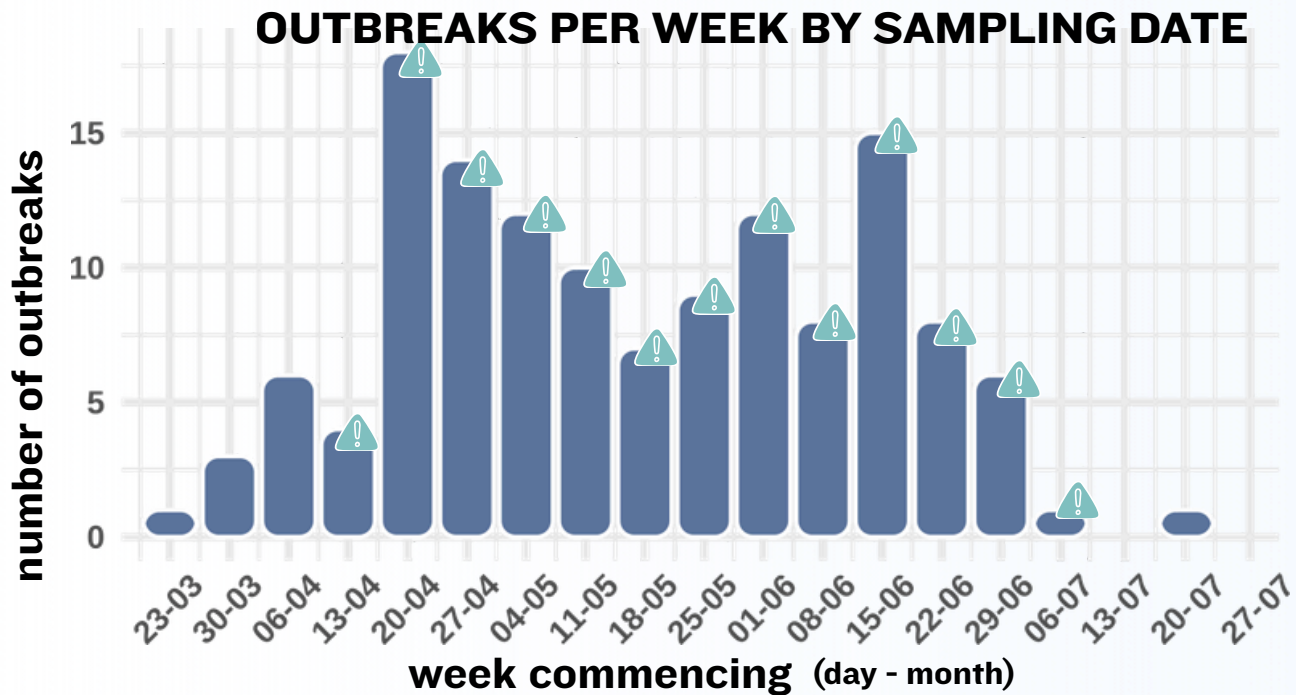
Movement history

- 83/135 (62%) involved horses with a recent history of travel
- 10/135 (7%) reported no recent movement
- 42/135 (31%) history unavailable



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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

LOOKING BEYOND THE OUTBREAK

Although the national surveillance picture is encouraging, **continued vigilance remains essential**. As outbreak activity slows, this is an ideal **opportunity to strengthen long-term influenza prevention** by reviewing vaccination programmes, reinforcing yard biosecurity, implementing quarantine protocols for new arrivals, monitoring horses for signs of respiratory disease and ensuring clear isolation procedures are in place when needed.

The response to this outbreak has demonstrated **the value of a proactive approach to disease prevention**. By building these practices into routine horse management, the equine community can not only continue to reduce the risk of equine influenza but also **be better prepared for future infectious disease threats**.

EIDS welcomes reports of all laboratory-confirmed equine influenza cases, including those diagnosed using point-of-care testing. Permission to share anonymised county-level data strengthens national surveillance and helps protect the wider equine population.

Free laboratory testing for suspected equine influenza remains available through the HBLB-funded influenza surveillance scheme, delivered by EIDS in partnership with Rossdale Laboratories.

