


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


EIDS UPDATE: 30/04/2026


Thank you to the vets who continue to report cases of equine influenza (EI) to Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS). These reports remain essential for tracking the spread of disease and keeping the equine community informed of the current situation in the UK. Since the beginning of April 2026, EIDS has been notified of **34 confirmed EI outbreaks affecting premises across 25 counties in the UK**.

POINTS OF NOTE:

 **Further growth in the number of confirmed outbreaks has been recorded since our last update on 23 April 2026.**


EIDS has received details and approval to report on 13 additional outbreaks, confirmed through laboratory testing, across 12 counties


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

 **Most outbreaks continue to involve** horses that had recently moved premises (19/34)

 **Vaccination status**

- 4/34 were vaccinated
- 12/34 were unvaccinated
- 18/34 had unknown vaccination status

 **Seven cases were confirmed** using rapid in-house point-of-care tests (five LAMP and two iPCR)

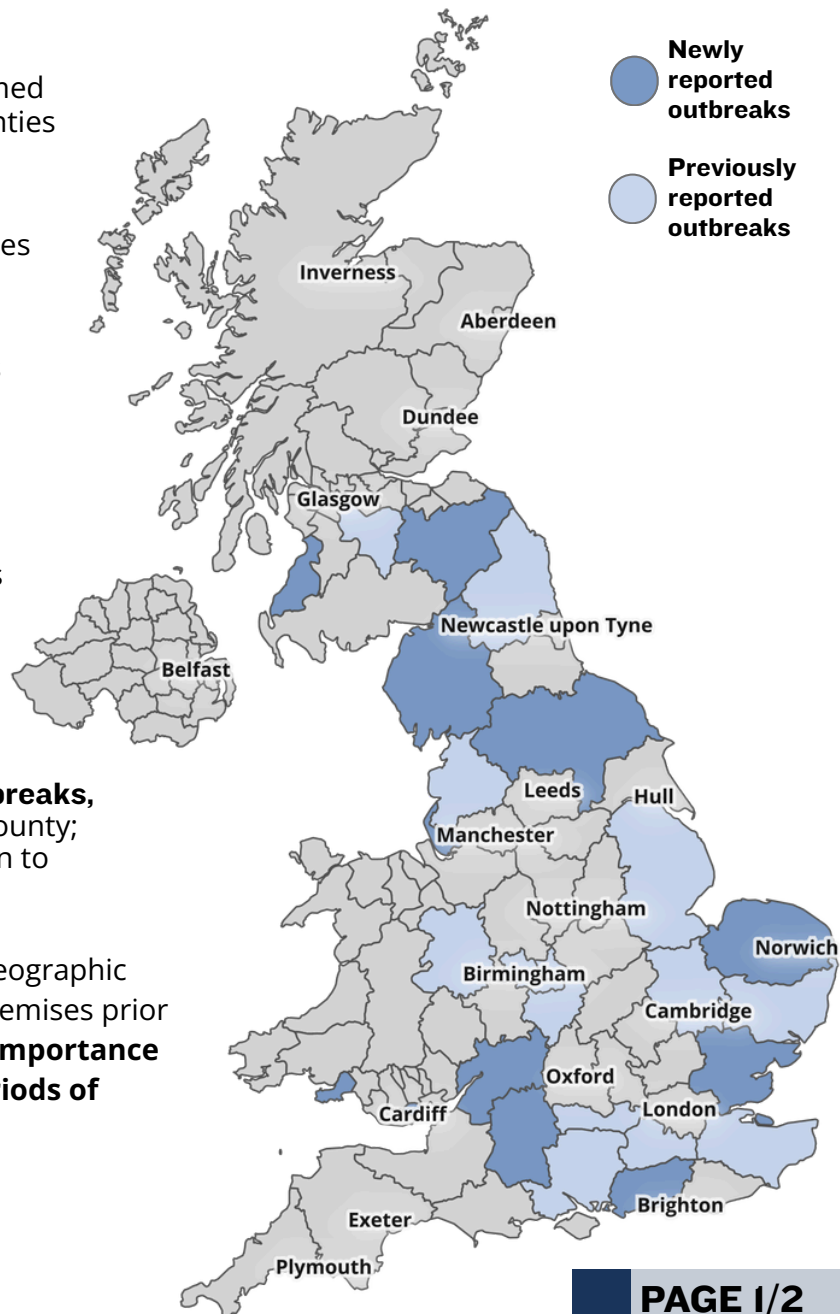
 **EIDS is also aware of eight further outbreaks,** including one in a previously unaffected county; however, additional details and permission to report are still awaited

With cases continuing to emerge across a wide geographic area, and many affected horses having moved premises prior to the onset of clinical signs, this **highlights the importance of careful movement management during periods of increased EI activity.**

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



Our map below reflects all outbreaks reported to EIDS between 29/03 - 27/04. Lighter shaded regions are previously reported outbreaks, darker regions are newly reported outbreaks in this update.



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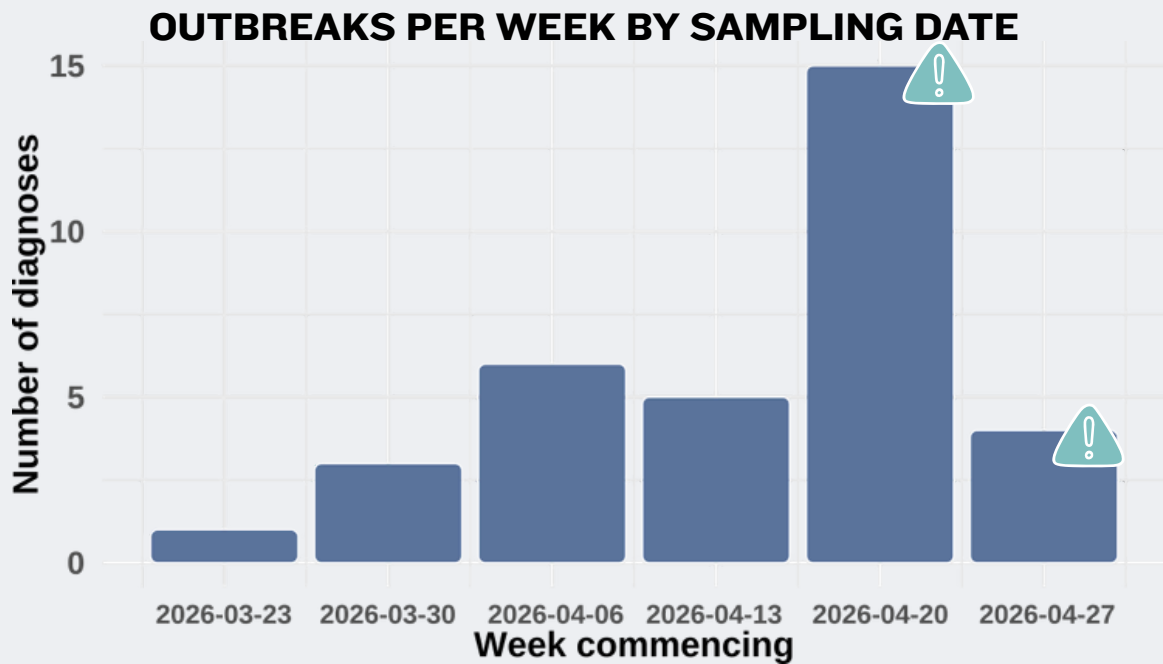
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Those responsible for horses are encouraged to take a risk-based approach when moving animals, particularly between yards, events, or regions. Monitoring for early clinical signs, maintaining up-to-date vaccinations, and isolating new arrivals remain key measures in reducing transmission.

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.

[REPORT HERE](#)



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

TAKE HOME MESSAGES:



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



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



All horse movements on and off the yard should be stopped



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



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



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

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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](#)



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