

# BE ALERT! SUDDEN RISE IN EQUINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS DETECTED IN THE UK IN APRIL 2026



## EIDS UPDATE: 14/04/2026

Since the beginning of April 2026, Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) has become aware of six confirmed outbreaks of equine influenza (EI) on premises in six separate counties of England: Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and Suffolk (not close to Newmarket). These six outbreaks reported in the first 10 days of April are in contrast to only two EI outbreaks reported for the UK during all of the first quarter of 2026.

## POINTS OF NOTE:



### Five of six outbreaks have involved confirmed EI infection in recently arrived horses

with three of these in animals imported from European countries, including Ireland and the Netherlands



### Three of six outbreaks

have had EI infection confirmed in vaccinated horses



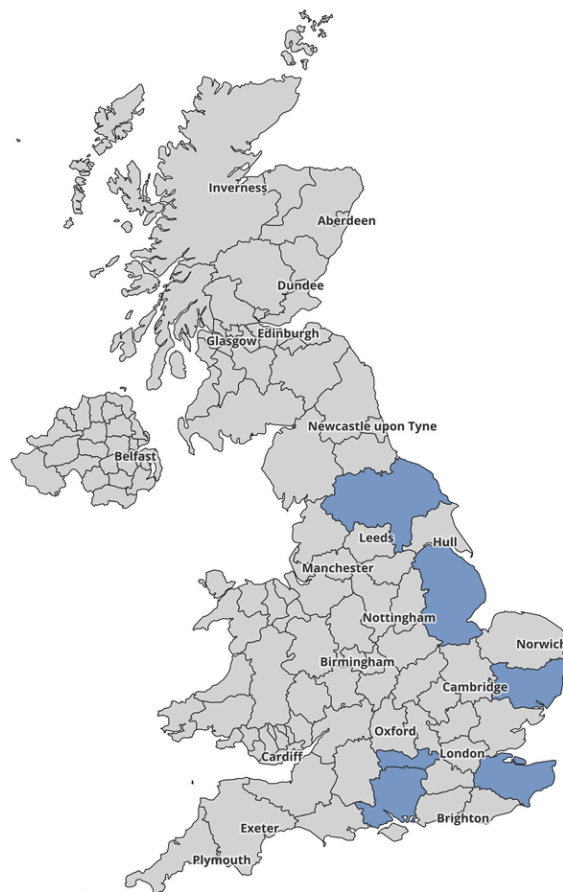
### Two of six outbreaks

were confirmed using different in-house point of care test platforms – loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) and insulated isothermal PCR (iiPCR)



### One of the six outbreaks

was confirmed using free laboratory tests kindly funded as part of the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) flu surveillance scheme run by EIDS in conjunction with Rossdales Laboratories



EIDS therefore urges horse owners and their veterinary surgeons to be vigilant for the emergence of signs of respiratory disease (pyrexia (fever), inappetence, coughing and nasal discharge) among animals under their care. This is particularly true among recently arrived and non-vaccinated animals, although signs in vaccinated horses should be taken seriously and also be investigated. Diagnosis relies on upper respiratory tract samples being collected and tested by either conventional laboratory methods (qPCR) or point of care testing at the practice (LAMP, iiPCR) for presence of viral RNA. If your vets have a positive laboratory or point of care test result for EI please do urge them to report this to EIDS via the [online disease reporting platform](#) – they can readily access this from the EIDS website landing page. With your help we can keep tabs on the extent of EI across the UK!

## HORSE OWNER RESOURCE

Did you know EIDS has an equine influenza information sheet for horse owners? EIDS has produced an information sheet for owners summarising key information for equine influenza.

Find and share this resource following this link:

[www.equinesurveillance.org/landing/resources/What to do with equine flu2024V1.pdf](http://www.equinesurveillance.org/landing/resources/What%20to%20do%20with%20equine%20flu2024V1.pdf)

