

UK equine influenza outbreaks 2015

22 December 2015 – Tyne and Wear outbreak

On 22 December the Animal Health Trust confirmed a serology result, which is highly suggestive of an equine influenza infection. The affected horse was an unvaccinated eight-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare. The diagnosis was made following paired blood samples 2 weeks apart, showing high antibodies to equine influenza.

14 December 2015 – Northamptonshire outbreak update

Update on the equine influenza outbreak on a private premises in Northamptonshire, England. On the 14th December 2015, two further cases from sampled in-contact animals were confirmed. The affected horses were unvaccinated Andalusians with presenting clinical signs of nasal discharge, coughing and pyrexia. Positive diagnoses were made by qPCR on nasopharyngeal swabs. Samples were unable to be obtained from another in-contact animal, which presented with similar clinical signs. This brings the total of confirmed cases on this premises to four, plus one further probable case. Control measures have included the implementation of movement restrictions.

11 December 2015 – Northamptonshire outbreak

On the 11th December 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed two cases of equine influenza in Northamptonshire, England. The affected horses were unvaccinated Andalusians that had arrived on the premises after being imported from Spain. Presenting clinical signs were nasal discharge, coughing and pyrexia. The positive diagnoses were made by qPCR on nasopharyngeal swabs. The affected animals are on a private premises and samples have been taken from four in-contact animals.

26 November 2015 – Cleveland outbreak

The Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza in Cleveland, England. The affected horse was a four-year-old unvaccinated Irish Sport Horse mare that had arrived on the premises after being imported. The horse presented with pyrexia, cough, mucopurulent nasal discharge and lethargy. The positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. The affected animal is currently in isolation and there are around 90 other horses on the premises, none of which has so far shown clinical signs of disease.

18 November 2015 – Cheshire outbreak

On the 18th November 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in Staffordshire, England. The affected horse was a seven-year-old unvaccinated gelding that presented with signs of bilateral nasal discharge, swollen lymph nodes and mild pyrexia for the previous three days. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. There are 10 other horses at the premises, of which none has developed signs of disease to date.

13 November 2015 – Staffordshire outbreak

The Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in Staffordshire, England. The affected horse is a 4-year-old unvaccinated gelding that was recently imported and presented soon after with clinical signs of pyrexia, cough, mucopurulent nasal discharge, lethargy and lymph node swelling. There are 20 other horses at the premises of which none has shown clinical signs of disease to date.

5 November 2015 – East Sussex outbreak

On the 5th November 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza in East Sussex, England. The affected horse was an eleven-year-old unvaccinated Irish Sports Horse mare that had arrived on the premises after being imported within the last week, and presented with dry harsh cough, mucopurulent nasal discharge, lethargy and limb oedema on 1st November 2015. The positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab collected on 3rd November 2015. The affected animal is in isolation and there are around 30 other horses on the premises of which none has so far shown clinical signs of disease.

7 October 2015 – Kent outbreak

The Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza in Kent, England. The affected horse was a four year-old unvaccinated Dutch warmblood that presented with pyrexia, cough, mucopurulent nasal discharge and enlarged lymph nodes. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. There are 20 other horses at the premises of which none has shown clinical signs of disease to date.

4 September 2015 – Norfolk outbreak

On the 4th September 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in Norfolk, England. The affected horse was a unvaccinated two-year-old pony gelding that presented with mucopurulent nasal discharge and coughing, having been introduced onto the premises the day before that. There are five animals reported to be affected and 12 in-contact horses on the premises. The positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab.

12 August 2015 – Norfolk outbreak

On the 12th August 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in Norfolk, England. The affected horse was a fifteen-year-old unvaccinated cob that presented with mucopurulent nasal discharge and respiratory effort. There are 10 in-contact horses, but no further information is available at the moment.

28 July 2015 – Lancashire outbreak

On the 28th July the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in Lancashire, England. The affected animal was an unvaccinated five-year-old Cob that presented with productive cough, mucopurulent nasal discharge, conjunctivitis and inappetance for the preceding 24 hours. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. There are 20 other horses at the premises, but none has presented with clinical signs of disease to date.

23 July 2015 – Scottish Borders outbreak

On the 23rd July 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in the Scottish Borders. The affected animal was an unvaccinated five-year-old Irish Sport Horse that presented with mild cough, serous nasal discharge and lethargy for the preceding three days. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR. There is another in-contact horse that has not presented with clinical signs of disease to date.

7 July 2015 – Tyne and Wear outbreak

On 7th July 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed an outbreak of equine influenza on a livery yard in Tyne and Wear, England. At least four horses out of 20 at the premises, all unvaccinated, presented with dry cough and mucoid to mucopurulent nasal discharge after a new horse, also affected, arrived at the premises five days ago. Positive diagnoses were made by qPCR on nasopharyngeal swabs.

2 July 2015 – West Midlands outbreak

On the 2nd July 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed an outbreak of equine influenza on premises in West Midlands, England. The affected horse was a fifteen-year-old unvaccinated cob that presented with dry cough, enlarged submandibular lymph nodes and serous nasal discharge for the preceding six days. There are no in-contact horses. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on nasopharyngeal swab.

2 July 2015 – Lanarkshire outbreak

On the 2nd July 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed an outbreak of equine influenza on premises in Lanarkshire, Scotland. The affected animal was a six-year-old unvaccinated pony mare that presented with dry cough, enlarged submandibular lymph nodes and nasal discharge three days after attending a show near Edinburgh. There are two in-contact horses of which one is currently showing signs of disease. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on nasopharyngeal swab.

25 June 2015 – South Lanarkshire outbreak

On the 25th June 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed outbreaks of equine influenza on a premises in Lanarkshire, Scotland. The affected horse was an unvaccinated seven-year-old Welsh mare that had attended a show near Edinburgh last weekend. The mare presented with clinical signs of mucopurulent nasal discharge, cough and pyrexia. There are three in-contact horses, of which none has shown signs to date. Positive diagnosis was made by PCR on a nasopharyngeal swab.

25 June 2015 – Glamorganshire outbreak

The Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza in Glamorganshire, Wales. The positive horse was an unvaccinated six-year-old gelding presenting with pyrexia, dry cough, enlarged lymph nodes, mucopurulent nasal discharge and depression. There are 50 other horses at the premises of which 10 are showing signs of disease at the moment. Positive diagnosis was made by PCR on a nasopharyngeal swab.

22 June 2015 – Dorset outbreak

On the 22nd June 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed an outbreak of equine influenza on a premises in Dorset, England. The affected animals presented with pyrexia, dry cough, nasal discharge and inappetence. There are three affected animals; all unvaccinated. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasal swab from one of them. Two further in-contact vaccinated horses are at the premises, both currently healthy.

8 May 2015 – Scottish Borders outbreak

On 8th May 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in Roxburghshire, in the Scottish Borders. The affected horse is a four-year-old unvaccinated Irish Sport Horse gelding that had recently been purchased from a dealer's yard after arriving from Ireland. The gelding was first noted with clinical signs of serous nasal discharge, dry cough, and enlarged lymph nodes on 30th April 2015. The positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab taken on 7th May 2015. There are two other vaccinated horses on the premises but neither has shown signs of disease to date.

22 April 2015 – Leicestershire outbreak

On 22nd April 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in Leicestershire, England. The affected mare was a six-year-old unvaccinated Irish Sport Horse that had recently arrived from Ireland. The mare presented with mucopurulent nasal discharge, dry cough, pyrexia, depression and enlarged lymph nodes. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. There are nine other horses at the premises of which none has shown signs of disease to date.

8 April 2015 – North Yorkshire outbreak

On 8th April 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed an outbreak of equine influenza on a premises in North Yorkshire, England. The positive horse was an unvaccinated two-year-old Shetland pony filly that presented with dry harsh cough, serous nasal discharge, swollen lymph nodes and lethargy for the preceding three days. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. There are four horses affected out of 20 on the premises.

25 March 2015 – Scottish Borders outbreak

On the 25th March 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in the Scottish Borders. The affected animal was a six-year-old unvaccinated Irish Sport Horse mare that presented with mucopurulent nasal discharge and cough for the preceding four days. Positive diagnosis was confirmed by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. There are 20 in contact horses at the premises.

10 March 2015 – North Yorkshire outbreak

On 10th March 2015, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in North Yorkshire, England. The affected mare was an unvaccinated four-year-old Connemara that presented with clinical signs of pyrexia, inappetance, mild dry cough and mucopurulent nasal discharge for the preceding six days. Positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. There are three other horses affected out of 10 at the premises.

Please see table below for a summary of each outbreak and details of virus characterisation.

Sequence of the HA and NA genes of all viruses isolated so far during 2015 show them to be similar to viruses isolated in the UK throughout 2014. They belong to the Florida Clade 2 sublineage of H3N8 equine influenza, sharing a substitution at amino acid 144 of the HA protein. Nearly all outbreaks in 2015 were in unvaccinated horses, or those whose vaccinations were not up to date. Keeping up to date with vaccinations will help protect your horse.

For details of historical outbreaks, please see our International Collating Centre reports following the links for 'EI':

<http://www.aht.org.uk/cms-display/international-breeders-meeting.html>

Date diagnosed	Location	Vaccinated?	No. other horses affected?	Clade of virus
22 December 2015	Tyne and Wear	No	4 out of 8	Unable to isolate – serum samples
11 December 2015	Northamptonshire	No	5 out of 7	Not yet isolated
26 November 2015	Cleveland	No	0 out of 90	Not yet isolated
18 November 2015	Cheshire	No	0 out of 10	Not yet isolated
13 November 2015	Staffordshire	No	0 out of 20	Not yet isolated
5 November 2015	East Sussex	No	0 out of 30	Florida clade 2, 144 like
7 October 2015	Kent	No	0 out of 20	Florida clade 2, 144 like
4 September 2015	Norfolk	No	5 out of 12	Unable to isolate
12 August 2015	Norfolk	No	0 out of 10	Florida clade 2, 144 like
28 July 2015	Lancashire	No	0 out of 20	Unable to isolate
23 July 2015	Scottish Borders	No	0 out of 1	Florida clade 2, 144 like
7 July 2015	Tyne & Wear	No	4 out of 20	Florida clade 2, 144 like
2 July 2015	Lanarkshire	No	1 out of 2	Florida clade 2, 144 like
2 July 2015	West Midlands	No	None reported	Florida clade 2, 144 like
25 June 2015	Glamorgan	No	10 out of 50	Unable to isolate
25 June 2015	South Lanarkshire	No	0 out of 3	Florida clade 2, 144 like
22 June 2015	Dorset	No	3 out of 5	Unable to isolate
8 May 2015	Scottish Borders	No	0 out of 2	Unable to characterise
22 April 2015	Leicestershire	No	0 out of 9	Florida clade 2, 144 like
8 April 2015	North Yorkshire	No	4 out of 29	Florida clade 2, 144 like
25 March 2015	Scottish Borders	No	Unknown	Unable to characterise
10 March 2015	North Yorkshire	No	Unknown	Florida clade 2, 144 like