

FLU ALERT!



Animal *Health* Trust



Please be on the lookout for the classic influenza signs including a harsh dry cough, nasal discharge, pyrexia and in-appetite - particularly in the affected areas, or in horses that have recently been transported. Signs may be mild in vaccinated horses.

Vets - please remember we can test your samples for free through the surveillance scheme. Click [here](#) to sign up. You can send in samples to us for free diagnosis by using your equine flu swabbing kits and by taking paired blood samples. If you need any more information or more kits and submission forms please contact us.

RECENT OUTBREAKS:

December – Gloucestershire outbreak (update)

On 2 December 2016, the Animal Health Trust confirmed two further cases of equine influenza on a premises in Gloucestershire. The affected animals were not vaccinated and presented with nasal discharge and coughing. They had been in direct contact with the index case reported on 30 November 2016. The positive diagnoses were confirmed by qPCR on nasopharyngeal swabs. Control measures have been implemented.

November – Gloucestershire outbreak

On 30 November 2016, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in Gloucestershire. The affected animal was a six-year-old unvaccinated mare who presented with mucopurulent nasal discharge, pyrexia and coughing on 28 November and was sampled on 29 November. The animal had been in direct contact with eight other horses of which six were not vaccinated. These six animals have developed signs of coughing and mucopurulent nasal discharge. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. Control measures have been implemented.

4 November - Lancashire outbreak

On 4 November 2016, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on a premises in Lancashire, England with seven horses. The affected animal, which had been purchased from a sale approximately a week previously, is a five-month-old, unvaccinated colt that presented with a mucopurulent nasal discharge. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab.

14 October - Stirlingshire outbreak

On 13 October, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on premises in Stirlingshire, Scotland. The affected animal was a five month old unvaccinated filly, imported

from overseas ten days previously. Clinical signs were first noted on 7 October and consisted of a harsh cough, mucopurulent nasal discharge and pyrexia. The animal was examined and sampled on 12 October and has a co-infection with *Streptococcus equi*. It has been in indirect contact with two other vaccinated animals, who have also presented with signs of respiratory disease. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. Control measures have been implemented.

30 September 2016 - Fife

On 30 September, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on premises in Fife, Scotland. The affected animal was a three year old unvaccinated filly, who presented with mucopurulent nasal discharge and mild cough on 24 September and was sampled on 28 September. The case is in direct contact with two other vaccinated horses. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. Control measures have been implemented.

23 June 2016 – Kent outbreak

On 23 June 2016, the Animal Health Trust confirmed one case of equine influenza on a premises in Kent, England. The affected animal was a three-year-old non-vaccinated Irish Sports Horse gelding that had arrived on the premises approximately one week previously from overseas. The presenting clinical signs included pyrexia, coughing and nasal discharge. The case was in contact with three other horses, of which one is not vaccinated. None of the direct contacts have so far shown clinical signs of disease. The positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab.

16 June 2016 – Hampshire

On 16 June 2016, the Animal Health Trust confirmed two cases of equine influenza on a premises in Hampshire, England. The affected animals were a non-vaccinated Cob gelding and a non-vaccinated Irish Sports Horse gelding that had arrived on the premises approximately one week previously from overseas. The presenting clinical signs included frequent coughing, serous nasal discharge and pyrexia. The cases are in direct contact with four other animals of unknown vaccination status in the same field, although none of them have so far shown clinical signs of disease. The positive diagnoses were made by qPCR on nasopharyngeal swabs.

2 March 2016 – Hampshire outbreak

On the 2 March 2016, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza in Hampshire, England. The affected animal was a four-year-old unvaccinated gelding that had

arrived on the premises five weeks previously. The presenting clinical signs were coughing, mucopurulent nasal discharge and lethargy. Prior to diagnosis, the case was in direct contact with five other animals, however none of these have so far shown clinical signs of disease. The positive diagnosis was made by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab.

Date diagnosed	Location	Vaccinated?	No. of horses affected?	Clade of virus
30 November 2016	Gloucestershire	No	7 out of 9	Florida clade 2, 144 and 192 like
4 November 2016	Lancashire	No	1 out of 7	Florida clade 2, 144 and 192 like
14 October 2016	Stirlingshire	No	3 out of 3	Florida Clade 2, 144 and 192 like
30 September 2016	Fife	No	1 out of 3	Florida Clade 2, 144 and 192 like
23 June 2016	Kent	No	1 out of 4	Florida Clade 2, 144 and 192 like
16 June 2016	Hampshire	No	2 out of 6	Not yet isolated
2 March 2016	Hampshire	No	1 out of 6	Unable to isolate