Equine influenza outbreaks reported in 2019

UPDATE: 04 July 2019

New in this update:

- Outbreak confirmed in Roxburghshire, Kent, Newport, Lancashire, Warwickshire, Vale of Glamorgan and Tyne and Wear.

**July 2019**
- County Durham
- Monmouthshire
- Roxburghshire
- Kent
- Newport
- Norfolk
- Leicestershire
- East Sussex
- Lancashire
- Warwickshire
- Lancashire
- Vale of Glamorgan
- Tyne and Wear
### July 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outbreak No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Vaccinated?</th>
<th>Diagnosed by</th>
<th>Clade of virus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/07/19</td>
<td>County Durham</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/07/19</td>
<td>Monmouthshire</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/07/19</td>
<td>Roxburghshire</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/07/19</td>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/07/19</td>
<td>Newport</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/07/19</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/07/19</td>
<td>Leicestershire</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/07/19</td>
<td>East Sussex</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/07/19</td>
<td>Lancashire</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/07/19</td>
<td>Warwickshire</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>03/07/19</td>
<td>Lancashire</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/07/19</td>
<td>Vale of Glamorgan</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/07/19</td>
<td>Tyne and Wear</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>qPCR on NP swab</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(NP = nasopharyngeal, FC1 = H3N8 Florida sub-lineage clade 1, HI = haemagglutination inhibition assay, ND = not determined)

Where infection has been confirmed in vaccinated animals, the appropriate vaccine manufacturers and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate will be made aware by the treating vet. If a vet has a suspect case of EI in a vaccinated animal, we encourage sampling to confirm infection, however, suspect cases on yards with confirmed EI should also be reported to vaccine manufacturers.

### Tyne and Wear

On 3 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Tyne and Wear. The laboratory confirmed positive is an **unvaccinated** non-Thoroughbred that had clinical signs of coughing, lymphadenopathy, inappetence, lethargy and pyrexia. There are three unvaccinated in contacts that are clinically normal to date. The likely source of the infection is not known although the laboratory positive has been off-site in the last week or so and the affected premises is located geographically close to where there is thought to have been an outbreak of EI. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by PCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. Voluntary movement restrictions have been instigated.

### Vale of Glamorgan

On 3 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Vale of Glamorgan. The one laboratory confirmed positive is an **unvaccinated** non-Thoroughbred with signs of coughing and pyrexia. There are three unvaccinated direct in contacts that also have clinical signs. The premises also has eight other horses onsite, including six mares with foals at foot. These will be monitored closely. The likely source of the infection is unknown but the premises does receive new arrivals with regular movement of horses. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by PCR on nasopharyngeal swab.

### Lancashire

On 3 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Lancashire. The laboratory confirmed positive is an **unvaccinated** non-Thoroughbred that had signs of coughing and nasal discharge. Onset of clinical signs was reported to be 28 June. There are 4 other horses on the premises with mixed vaccinated status. The affected premises is located geographically close to where animals that attended a recent event in Cumbria, known to have been linked to other EI outbreaks in different parts of the country, reside. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by PCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. Voluntary movement restrictions have been put in place.
**Warwickshire**
On 2 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Warwickshire. The laboratory confirmed positive is an **unvaccinated** non-Thoroughbred with signs of coughing, inappetence, lethargy, nasal discharge and pyrexia. There are approximately eight other unvaccinated horses on the premises and two of these have been reported to also have clinical signs. The likely source of the infection is not confirmed, although a neighbouring premises has also reported horses with similar clinical signs. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by PCR on nasopharyngeal swab. Voluntary movement restrictions have been instigated.

**Lancashire**
On 2 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Lancashire. The laboratory confirmed positive is an **unvaccinated** non-Thoroughbred with signs of coughing and nasal discharge. There are approximately 20 horses on the premises of mixed vaccination status. The likely source of the infection is not confirmed, although the premises has had horses go off-site in the last two weeks and received new arrivals. There are two other horses reported to have had clinical signs. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by PCR on nasopharyngeal swab. Voluntary movement restrictions have been instigated.

**East Sussex**
On 2 July 2019, AHT confirmed EI on a premises in East Sussex. The one laboratory confirmed positive is a **vaccinated** non-Thoroughbred that was noted with a mild nasal discharge only after swabbing. The infection was confirmed by PCR on a nasopharyngeal swab in a horse that was required by the rules of their competition to be swabbed for EI before entry to the competition. Further clinical and laboratory screening of the five horses on the affected premise are being undertaken and voluntary movement restrictions have been instigated.

**Leicestershire**
On 2 July 2019, AHT confirmed EI on a premises in Leicestershire. The two laboratory confirmed positives are non-Thoroughbreds with no reported signs of respiratory disease that were last **vaccinated** in March and April 2019, respectively. The infections were confirmed by PCR on nasopharyngeal swabs in two animals that were required by the rules of their competition to be swabbed for EI before entry to the competition. Further clinical and laboratory screening of the 19 horses on the affected premise are being undertaken and voluntary movement restrictions have been instigated.

**Norfolk**
On 2 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Norfolk. The laboratory confirmed positive is a **vaccinated** non-Thoroughbred with signs of mild coughing, nasal discharge, pyrexia and lymphadenopathy when sampled. The horse had last received a vaccination a year ago. There are approximately 40 horses on the premises, including two foals and most are thought to be vaccinated. A further three have had clinical signs and the rest are being closely monitored, including taking daily temperatures. The likely source of the infection is not known although the premises has had horses go off-site in the last two weeks. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by PCR on nasopharyngeal swab. Voluntary movement restrictions have been instigated.

**Newport**
On 1 July 2019, Axiom confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Newport. The laboratory confirmed positive is a **vaccinated** non-Thoroughbred that had no clinical signs but was swabbed as a precaution as it was in contact with a horse with clinical signs of EI. Onset of clinical signs in this other horse was reported to be following contact with a new arrival that had nasal discharge and this new arrival is thought to be the likely source of the infection. There are around 30 horses on the premises with mixed vaccinated status. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by PCR on a nasopharyngeal swab. Voluntary movement restrictions have been put in place.
**Kent**
On 1 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Kent. The three laboratory confirmed positives are *unvaccinated* non-Thoroughbreds that had signs of coughing and nasal discharge when sampled. Onset of clinical signs was reported to be 20 June. There are approximately 30 horses on the premises with mixed vaccinated status, of which a total of 7 have clinical signs. The likely source of the infection is not known although the premises is busy and there a multiple other premises nearby with a high movement of horses. The positive diagnoses were confirmed by PCR on nasopharyngeal swabs. Voluntary movement restrictions have been put in place.

**Roxburghshire**
On 1 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Roxburghshire with five horses. The one laboratory confirmed positive is an *unvaccinated* non-Thoroughbred with signs of coughing, nasal discharge and pyrexia. The likely source of the infection is through recent attendance at an event. Three in contacts are vaccinated and one is unvaccinated and none have clinical signs to date. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by PCR on nasopharyngeal swab. Voluntary movement restrictions have been instigated.

**Monmouthshire**
On 1 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in Monmouthshire with ten *unvaccinated* horses. The one laboratory confirmed positive is an unvaccinated non-Thoroughbred with signs of coughing, nasal discharge, lethargy and pyrexia. The laboratory confirmed positive has a three-month-old foal at foot, that is also demonstrating clinical signs. The likely source of the infection is through recent attendance at an event. All other horses on the premises are reported to have since developed clinical signs. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by PCR on nasopharyngeal swab.

**County Durham**
On 1 July 2019, AHT confirmed an outbreak of EI on a premises in County Durham with 13 unvaccinated horses. There are four laboratory confirmed positives and all are *unvaccinated* non-Thoroughbreds with signs of coughing, nasal discharge, inappetence and lethargy. There are multiple other unvaccinated horses reported to also be affected. The likely source of the infection is thought to be indirect spread. The positive diagnoses were confirmed by PCR on nasopharyngeal swabs. Voluntary movement restrictions have been instigated.
Outbreaks of EI in Europe

There has been an increase in equine influenza activity reported in Europe. Multiple outbreaks were reported in Northern France at the end of December, whilst positive diagnoses have been made since the beginning of 2019 in **France, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy** the **Netherlands**, **Denmark** and **Sweden**.
Outbreaks of EI in Africa

Nigeria
On 20 February 2019, ProMED reported further information on an outbreak of EI in Nigeria that was first reported by OIE in January 2019. There are now more than 3000 equines infected, with reports from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) suggesting the outbreak is a symptom of the unregulated global movement and trading of donkeys for their skins.

International animal welfare charity The Donkey Sanctuary has warned of a potential disease epidemic in West Africa, following reports from partners in neighbouring countries Mali and Ghana of donkeys showing similar characteristics of the disease, including fever and nasal discharge. As a member of the OIE's consultative group International Coalition for Working Equids, The Donkey Sanctuary is taking steps to alert at-risk countries of the threats of an equine influenza epidemic and to offer support to governments and donkey-owning communities to help with the situation, including distributing critical information to communities on how to prevent further spread of the disease. At the same time, the charity is imploring the at-risk countries to immediately prohibit movement of donkeys along trade routes and to tackle illegal movements. With regards to the wider trading of donkeys for their skins, The Donkey Sanctuary believes the biosecurity threats and risk of disease spread are also heightened in such an unregulated and global trade - both in live animals and skin products. It believes the trade must halt until there is evidence to demonstrate that the trade is humane, sustainable and free from the risk of the spread of disease.

Senegal
On 8 April 2019, the OIE reported two outbreaks of EI in Dakar and Diourbel. There have been 3,651 cases reported and two deaths out of a susceptible populate of 130,253. It was thought that the source of the outbreak was either:

- Contact with infected animal(s) at grazing/watering
- Fomites (humans, vehicles, feed, etc.)
- Airborne spread
- Stray donkeys are the main animals affected and are reported to play a role in spreading the disease as well as the groupings at weekly markets and watering points. Confirmation of the serotype is pending. Positive diagnoses were confirmed by reverse-transcription-PCR. The following control measures are in place:

- Surveillance outside containment and/or protection zone
- Surveillance within containment and/or protection zone
- Quarantine
- Disinfection
- Ante and post-mortem inspections
- Vaccination permitted (if a vaccine exists)
- No treatment of affection animals
- Movement control inside the country