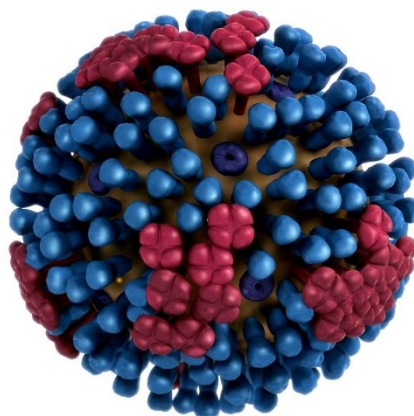




Leading science and care for animals



Equine Influenza Update: June 2019

Richard Newton FRCVS

BHC Meeting, Defra Nobel House, 10th June 2019



Animal *Health* Trust

Annual UK EI activity 2014-2018

- Declining no. of outbreaks/year since recent peak in 2014
 - 2014: 31 outbreaks
 - 2015: 21 outbreaks
 - 2016: 7 outbreaks
 - 2017: 5 outbreaks
 - **2018: 2 outbreaks** (838 samples)
- All **Florida Clade 2** viruses between 2010 & 2017
 - Evidence of continuous FC2 circulation in UK since large outbreaks in 2003 (Nkt/5/03)





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January 2019

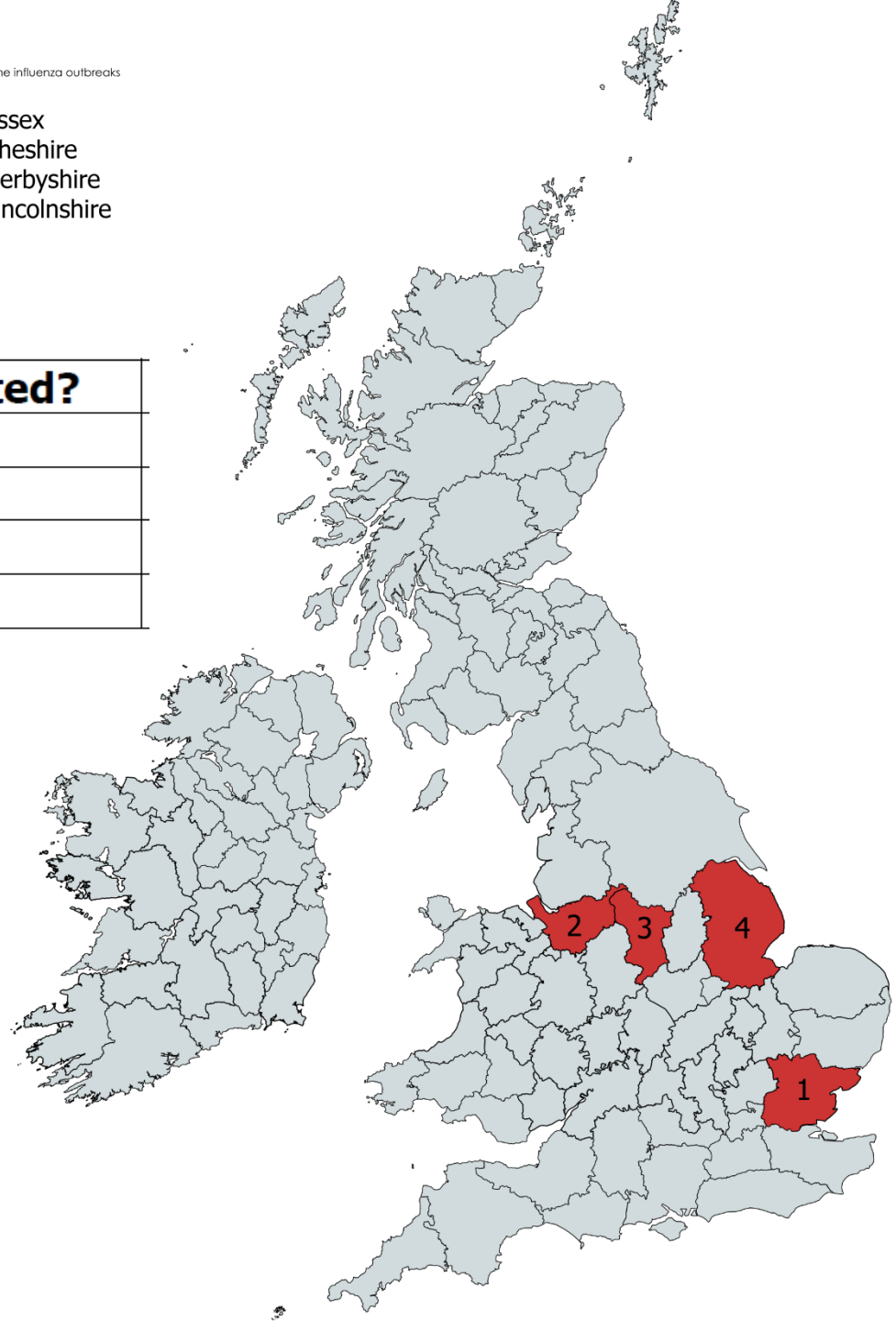
■ Equine influenza outbreaks

1. Essex
2. Cheshire
3. Derbyshire
4. Lincolnshire

Date	County	Vaccinated?
02/01/19	Essex	No
03/01/19	Cheshire	No
07/01/19	Derbyshire	No
17/01/19	Lincolnshire	No

(FC1 = H3N8 Florida sub-lineage clade 1)

- Confirmed as **Florida Clade 1** viruses





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A different EI picture emerging in 2019

- Increased **UK** activity in 2019 cf. 2018
- Increased **European** activity
 - Paillot et al., Vet Record letter, 17th January 2019: **FL clade 1**
- BHA Vet Committee were alerted 24th January 2019
 - Recommended 6 month boosting
- **Vaccinated horses with EI**
 - In EU prior to GB, incl. Ireland
 - **In GB on 4th Feb 2019**





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Decision time for British Racing

BBC



SPORT

Horse races cancelled across Britain after equine flu outbreak

Home | Football | Formula 1 | Cricket | Rugby U | Rugby L | Tennis | Golf | Athletics

Horse Racing > Results | Calendar

Equine Flu: British horse racing cancelled until at least 13 February



LATEST FLU OUTBREAK

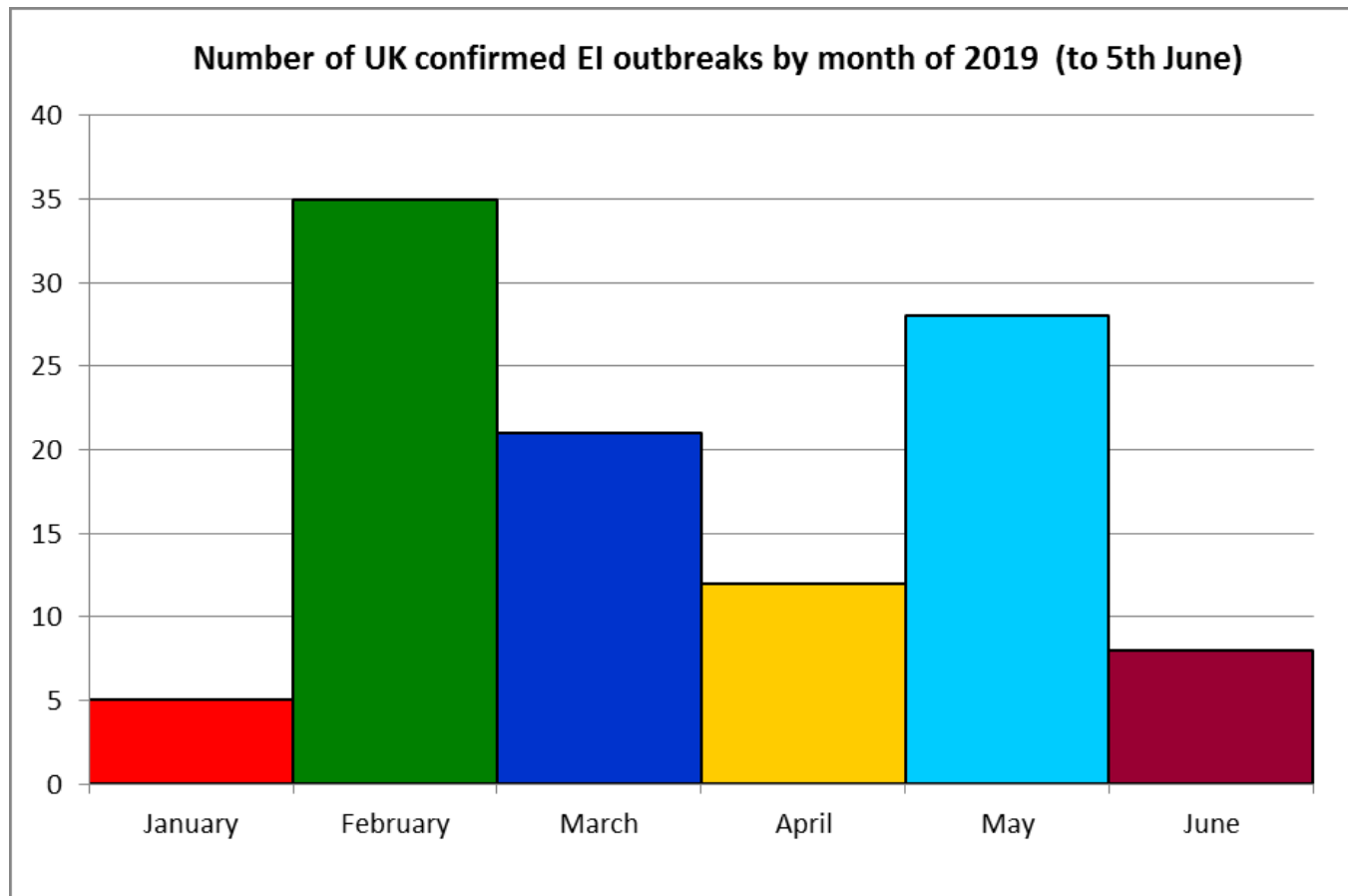
Racing in Britain cancelled following equine influenza outbreak



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Summarising EI in UK in 2019

- 109 outbreaks confirmed to 5th June 2019



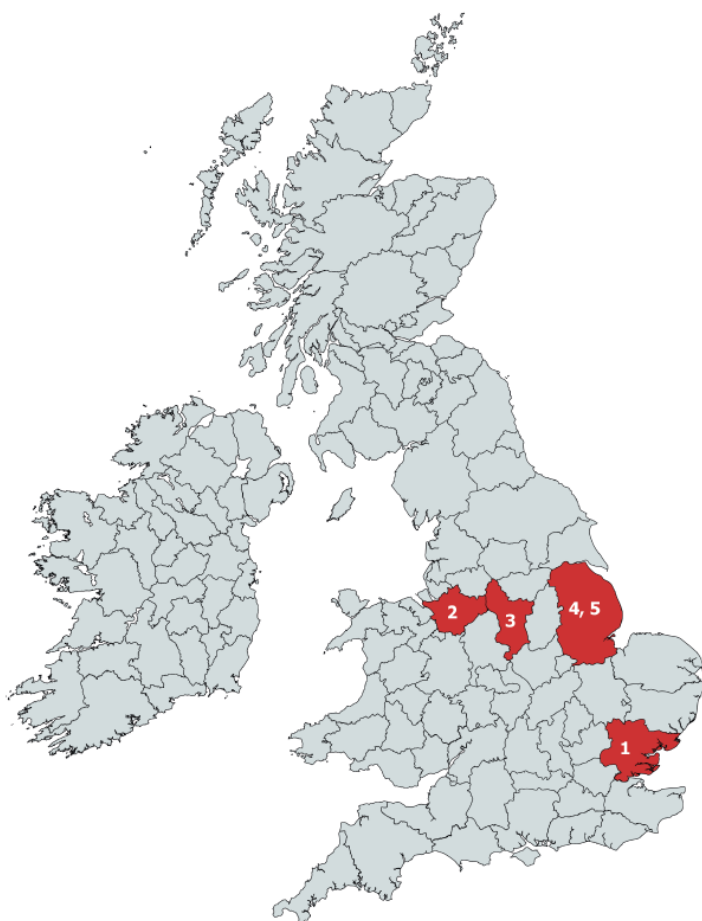


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Summarising EI in UK in 2019

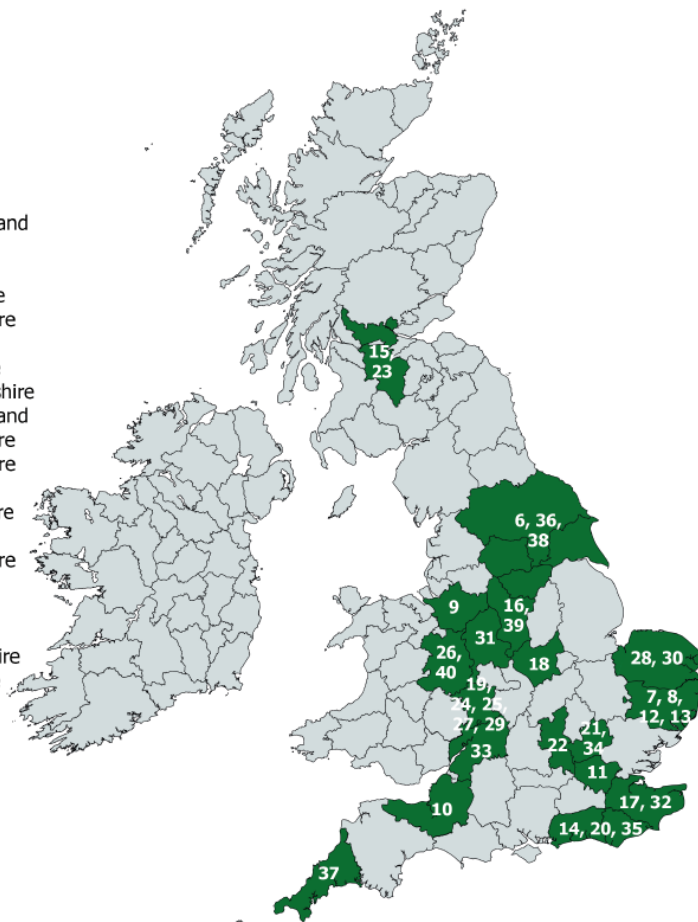
January 2019

1. Essex
2. Cheshire
3. Derbyshire
4. Lincolnshire
5. Lincolnshire



February 2019

6. Yorkshire
7. Suffolk
8. Suffolk
9. Cheshire
10. Somerset
11. Middlesex
12. Suffolk
13. Suffolk
14. Sussex
15. Central Scotland
16. Derbyshire
17. Kent
18. Leicestershire
19. Worcestershire
20. Sussex
21. Hertfordshire
22. Buckinghamshire
23. Central Scotland
24. Worcestershire
25. Worcestershire
26. Shropshire
27. Worcestershire
28. Norfolk
29. Worcestershire
30. Norfolk
31. Staffordshire
32. Kent
33. Gloucestershire
34. Hertfordshire
35. Sussex
36. Yorkshire
37. Cornwall
38. Yorkshire
39. Derbyshire
40. Shropshire



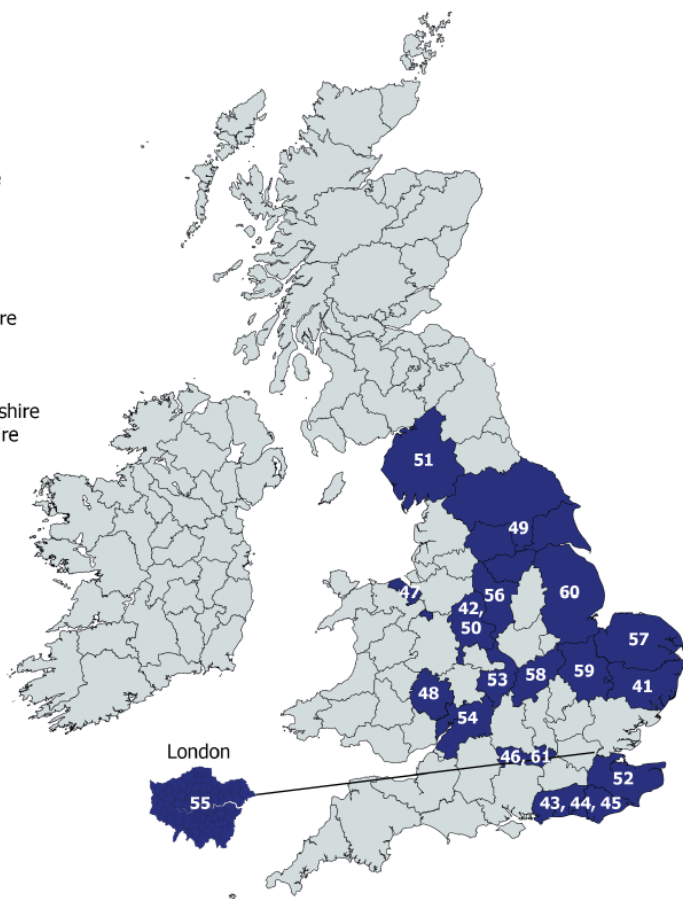


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Summarising EI in UK in 2019

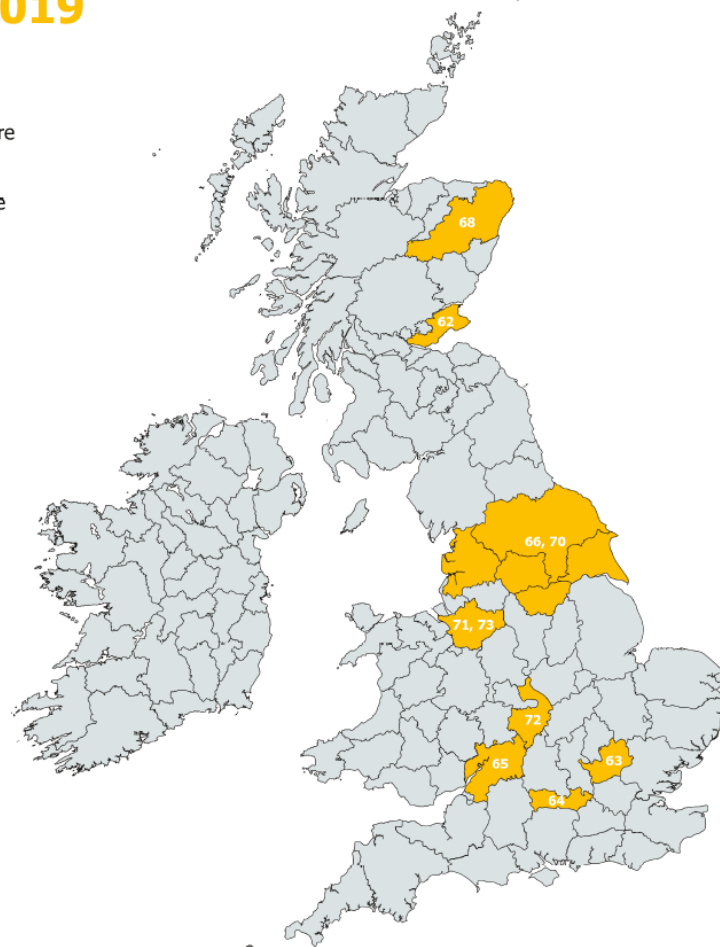
March 2019

- 41. Suffolk
- 42. Staffordshire
- 43. Sussex
- 44. Sussex
- 45. Sussex
- 46. Berkshire
- 47. Flintshire
- 48. Herefordshire
- 49. Yorkshire
- 50. Staffordshire
- 51. Cumbria
- 52. Kent
- 53. Warwickshire
- 54. Gloucestershire
- 55. London
- 56. Derbyshire
- 57. Norfolk
- 58. Northamptonshire
- 59. Cambridgeshire
- 60. Lincolnshire
- 61. Berkshire



April 2019

- 62. Fife
- 63. Hertfordshire
- 64. Berkshire
- 65. Gloucestershire
- 66. Yorkshire
- 67. Lancashire
- 68. Aberdeenshire
- 69. Lancashire
- 70. Yorkshire
- 71. Cheshire
- 72. Warwickshire
- 73. Cheshire





Animal *Health* Trust

Summarising EI in UK in 2019

- *"Has that horse flu thing gone away now?"*
- *"Do I really still need to be vaccinating every six months?"*
- *"We don't still need to vaccinate to go to shows do we?"*

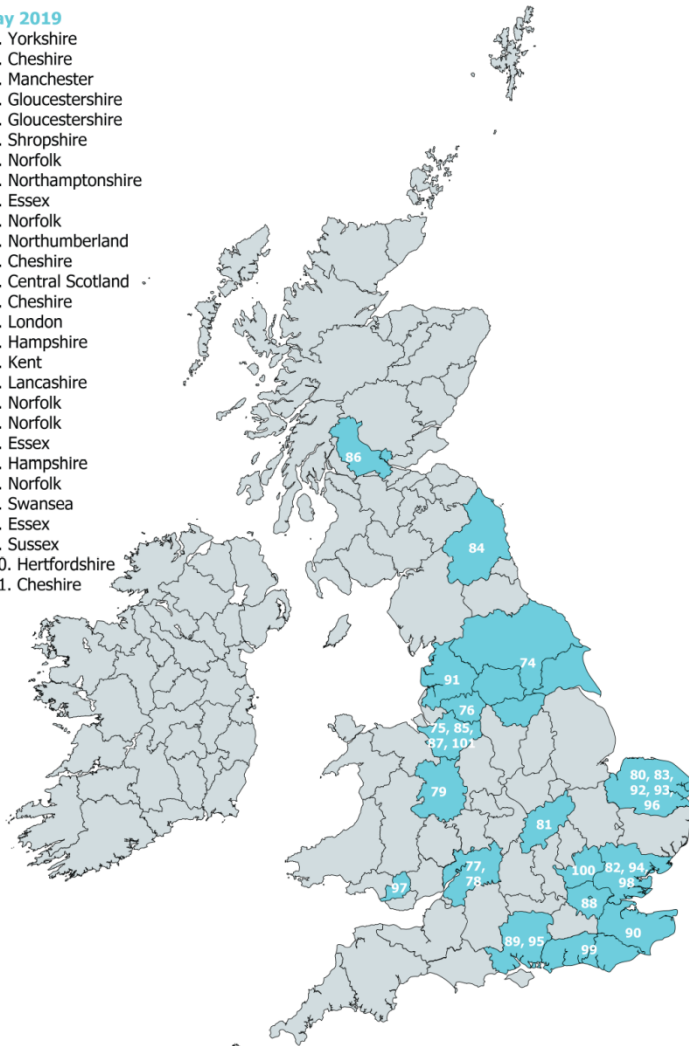


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Summarising EI in UK in 2019

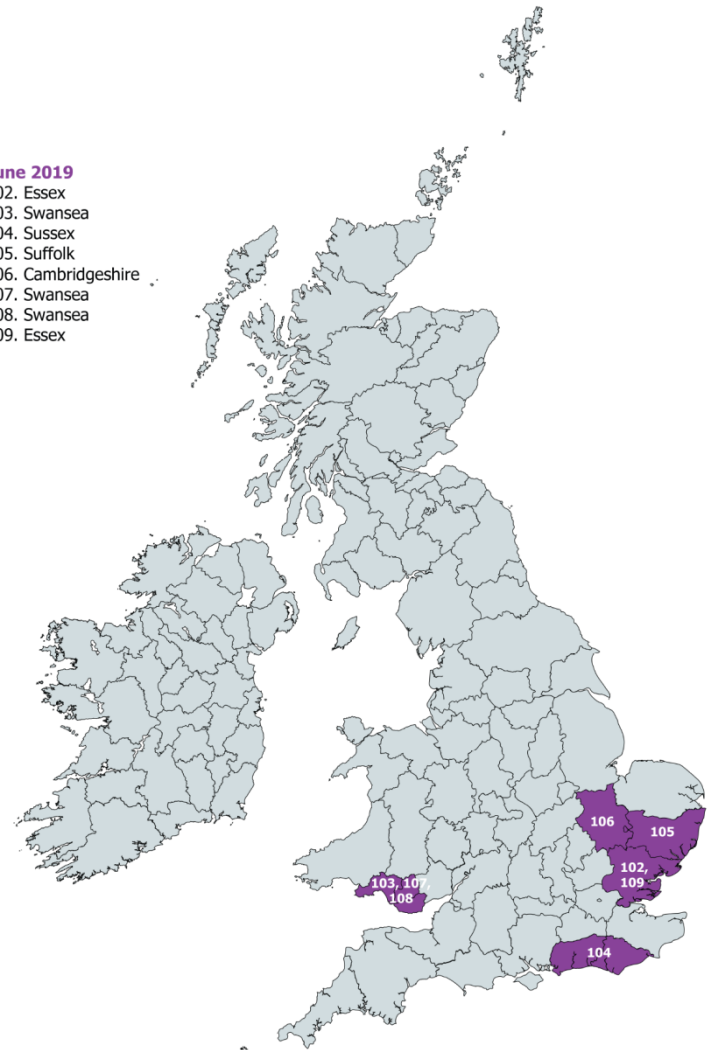
May 2019

74. Yorkshire
75. Cheshire
76. Manchester
77. Gloucestershire
78. Gloucestershire
79. Shropshire
80. Norfolk
81. Northamptonshire
82. Essex
83. Norfolk
84. Northumberland
85. Cheshire
86. Central Scotland
87. Cheshire
88. London
89. Hampshire
90. Kent
91. Lancashire
92. Norfolk
93. Norfolk
94. Essex
95. Hampshire
96. Norfolk
97. Swansea
98. Essex
99. Sussex
100. Hertfordshire
101. Cheshire



June 2019

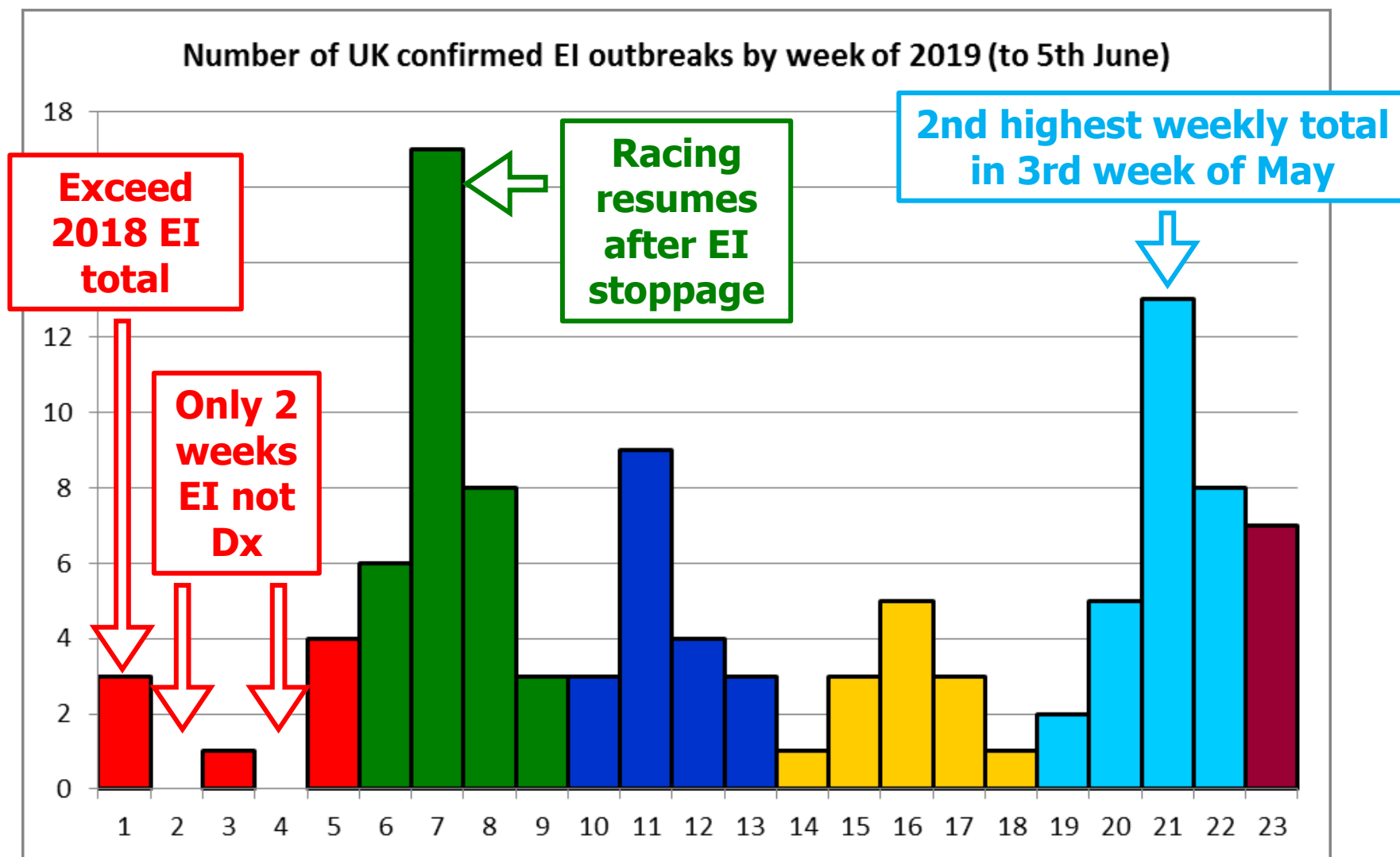
102. Essex
103. Swansea
104. Sussex
105. Suffolk
106. Cambridgeshire
107. Swansea
108. Swansea
109. Essex





Animal Health Trust

Summarising EI in UK in 2019





Animal *Health* Trust

Summarising EI in UK in 2019

109 UK EI outbreaks in 2019 up to 5th June

- Mainly England affected, involving many counties
- 17 involve vaccinated horses; all 3 vaccines involved
- Signs milder in vaccinated animals – a few very sick/fatal cases reported among unvaccinated animals
- Only 4 involve Thoroughbreds; 2 pre-training; 2 in-training
- Many linked to **new arrivals**, some from other EU countries; usually unvaccinated or history unknown
- Some linked to **mixing** e.g. through hunts in winter months, shows & events involved more recently
- Some large **unvaccinated** groups affected
- **Airborne spread** over distance suspected in some outbreaks in unvaccinated groups



Animal *Health* Trust

What do we need to do now...?

- Re-raise awareness that EI still here!
 - And could cause worse problems yet
- Simple messages missed *or ignored* by horse owners/event organisers?
- **Vaccinate:** start & maintain
- **Isolate:** incoming new/returning
- **Communicate:** be responsible
- **Investigate:** suspect cases & precautions being taken by events
- **Mitigate:** risk assess & take precautions

AHT
Animal Health Trust

EQUINE INFLUENZA

The Animal Health Trust recommends five basic protocols:

- VACCINATE**
BOOST YOUR HORSE'S VACCINATION IF IT WAS GIVEN MORE THAN 6 MONTHS AGO AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME
If your horse is not vaccinated, it will need to start a course of vaccinations and will not have protection until two weeks after the second vaccine in the course is given.
- ISOLATE**
WHAT BIOSECURITY MEASURES ARE IN PLACE AT YOUR OWN YARD?
Immediately isolate new or unwell horses away from the main yard. Flu is easily spread amongst a group of horses.
- INVESTIGATE**
#1 IF YOU SUSPECT EQUINE FLU
CALL YOUR VET IMMEDIATELY TO INVESTIGATE
#2 IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO ATTEND AN EVENT OR EQUINE GATHERING, CONTACT THE ORGANISERS & ASK ABOUT THEIR BIOSECURITY POLICIES
If you are not comfortable with what is in place, don't attend!
- COMMUNICATE**
BE OPEN
If you have a suspected or confirmed outbreak, tell others and help minimise the spread of flu.
- MITIGATE**
DO ALL YOU CAN TO KNOW
THE RISK OF MOVING YOUR HORSE OR ATTENDING AN EVENT.
Mitigate against the risk and make your own sensible decision based on this.

The latest information from the Animal Health Trust on equine flu outbreaks is available from www.equifunet.org.uk or by following @equifunet on Twitter.

Learnings from this outbreak – realising benefits from.....

Optimising vaccination in the future

- **Harmonising vaccination rules** as too many & are confusing
- **Scientific-based** new rules proposed but do **need flexibility**
 - V1-V2: **21-56 days?**
 - V2-V3: **120-185 days?**
 - V4+: **6 monthly?**
 - Not within **5dd** of competition
 - Small **concession windows** to avoid need for starting new course?

