

BHC - 12 December 2025

Equine infectious disease update since 1 July 2025

Richard Newton

Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance

<https://equinesurveillance.org/>



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Veterinary
Medicine



EIDS

Equine Infectious
Disease Surveillance

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ITBF

Equine Infectious Anaemia

Source: ICC

36 reports issued

- 25 N. America (69%)
 - 19 USA (14 in TX)
- 5 Chile (14%)
- 6 Europe (17%)
 - 1 Belgium
 - 1 Bulgaria
 - 1 France
 - 1 Germany
 - 1 Hungary
 - 1 Italy



Equine Viral Arteritis

Source: RESPE

Outbreak in France

- Confirmed in Oct & Nov 2025
- Calvados, Normandy
- Non-TB breeding centre
- Multiple stallions infected with semen shedding

Pyrenees-Atlantique

- Linked to Calvados outbreak
- Virus positive semen



COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE – Foyers d'Arterite virale équine (AVE) – 19/11/2025 (PRESS RELEASE – Outbreaks of Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) – 19/11/2025) [Inbox x](#)



RESPE

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Fri 21 Nov, 16:51



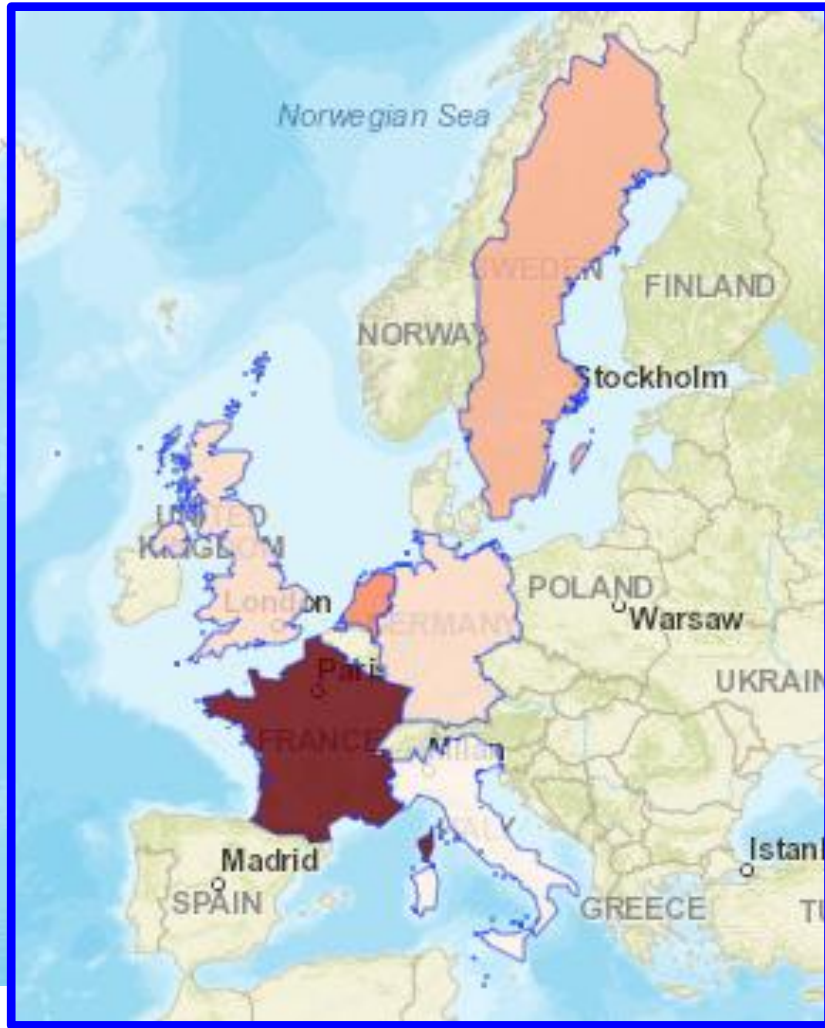
PRESS RELEASE Outbreaks of Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) 19/11/2025

Following the declaration in recent weeks of an outbreak of equine viral arteritis (EVA) involving several stallions at a breeding center in the Calvados department (14), with possible secondary outbreaks, the RESPE crisis team met on Wednesday, November 19, to assess the situation. The meeting also determined the precautionary measures to be implemented and disseminated in the coming days and weeks.



Equine Influenza activity since 1 Jul 2025

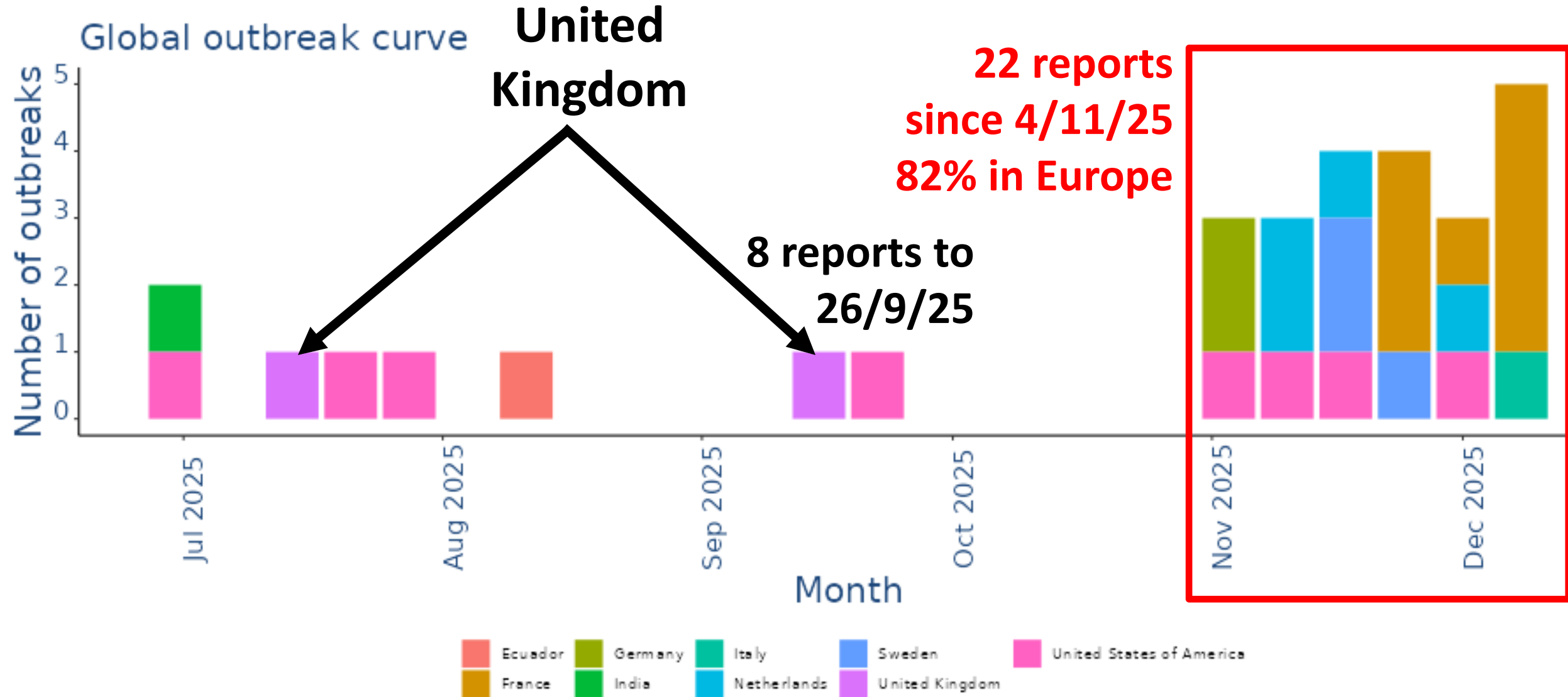
Source: EQUIFLUNET/ICC



Country	Total outbreaks
Ecuador	1
France	8
Germany	2
India	1
Italy	1
Netherlands	4
Sweden	3
United Kingdom	2
United States of America	8

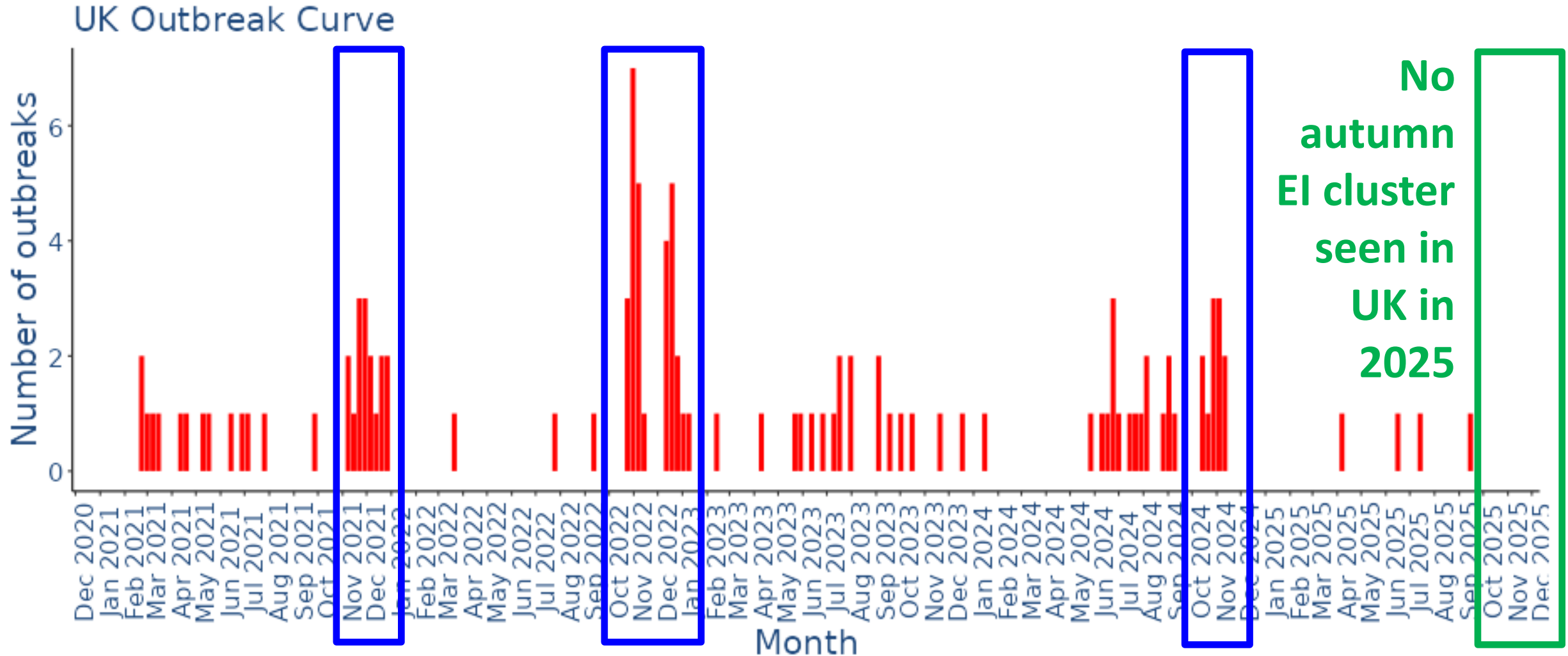
Equine Influenza activity since 1 Jul 2025

Outbreaks occur between 03 Jul 2025 and 11 Dec 2025 in selected period



Autumn EI clusters in the UK in 2021, 2022 & 2024

Outbreaks occur between 23 Feb 2021 and 18 Sep 2025 in selected period



Strangles since 1 Jul 2025

Source: ICC

183 outbreaks reported

- 64 N. America (35%)
- 119 Europe (65%)
 - 42 France
 - 34 Germany
 - 31 Netherlands
 - 10 Sweden
 - 1 Switzerland
 - 1 Ireland
 - **UK ???**



Strangles since 1 Jul 2025: United Kingdom



2025
STRANGLES
CASES
INCREASING

Surveillance of
Equine Strangles

Surveillance of
Equine Strangles

197

DIAGNOSES

94

SUBMITTING PRACTICES

57

NUMBER OF AREAS AFFECTED

**TH YORKSHIRE - 12.2%,
24 DIAGNOSES**

Area with most reported diagnoses

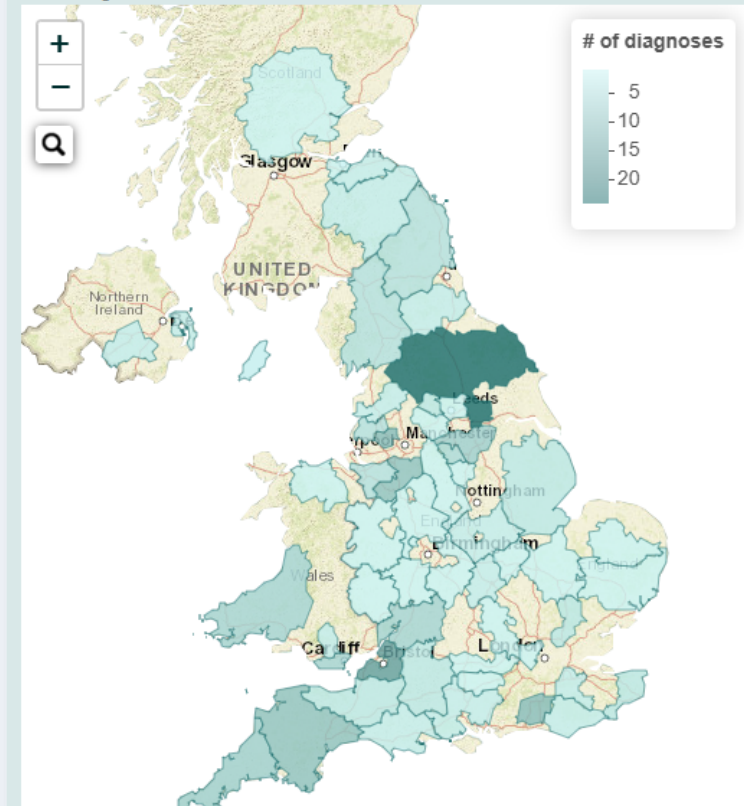
pre/post movement: 7%

other: 6%

EIDS
Equine Infectious
Disease Surveillance

DIAGNOSES BY VETERINARY PRACTICE LOCATION

Click on region for more details



Equine Disease Surveillance Report Q3 2025

EQUINE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

2025 Q3 QUARTERLY REPORT

Produced by:



VOLUME: 21, No. 3
Jul - Sep 2025

NEWS ARTICLES

SIGNIFICANT RISE IN UK EQUINE STRANGLES DIAGNOSES HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF VIGILANCE AND VACCINATION

Strangles is a highly contagious upper respiratory tract infection caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus equi* (*S. equi*), which can affect horses, ponies and donkeys of all breeds and ages. The disease is considered endemic within the UK horse population with surveillance of the disease undertaken by the Surveillance of Equine Strangles (SES) network an EIDS lead initiative, which monitors laboratory diagnoses. The network is comprised of 12 veterinary diagnostic laboratories and equine practices that confirm *S. equi* infection based on agent detection assays. With approximately 300 laboratory-confirmed cases reported in the UK each year (McGlennon, A., 2024), and many more likely undiagnosed, strangles continues to pose serious welfare and financial risks to the equine industry.

Throughout 2025 Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) has been monitoring diagnoses reported to SES, and as of the end of September 2025 over 360 laboratory diagnoses have already been reported – surpassing the previously referred to average total yearly diagnoses (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Number of positive *S. equi* diagnoses reported by the Surveillance and Equine Strangles (SES) network between January and September 2025.

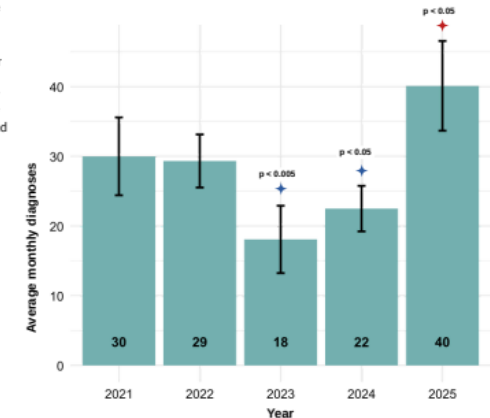
To investigate this further, trends in the average number of monthly diagnoses were examined over recent years to determine whether the increase seen so far in 2025 represents a genuine rise in disease reports or falls within expected normal year-to-year variation.

The average number of positive strangles diagnoses per month has risen significantly in 2025 compared with the previous four years, which all saw increases after a lower number of strangles diagnoses made in 2020, linked to the effects of Covid-19.

Compared to 2021 the average monthly diagnoses were virtually identical in 2022 but significantly decreased in 2023 and 2024, followed by reported average monthly diagnoses in 2025 showing a marked rise (Figure 2).

NEWS ARTICLES

Figure 2: Average monthly counts of positive strangles diagnoses by year with 95% confidence intervals (bars) shows statistically significantly lower average monthly diagnoses in 2023 and 2024 (blue stars) but statistically significantly higher average monthly diagnoses in 2025 (red star) compared to 2021 as the baseline, which were virtually identical.



This significant rise highlights the importance of continued monitoring of diagnoses via the SES network and serves as a timely reminder for yard and horse owners to increase their day-to-day hygiene and biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of disease for their horses.

Previous research into *Streptococcus equi* circulation in the UK revealed rapid genetic changes in the bacterial population and frequent transmission between regions (McGlennon *et al.*, 2025). The study revealed a significant and rapid change in the *S. equi* strains during this period, suggesting that acutely infected or recently recovered short-term carrier horses play a more important role in transmission than long-term carriers. Transmission between different UK regions was observed, with nearly two-thirds of transmission pairs occurring between horses from separate regions and one major transmission chain spanning England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland within six-months.

The conclusions from the previous research and the increase in laboratory diagnoses observed recently by SES in 2025 are a stark reminder to the equine industry to work together to help reduce the risk of strangles spreading into new populations of horses.

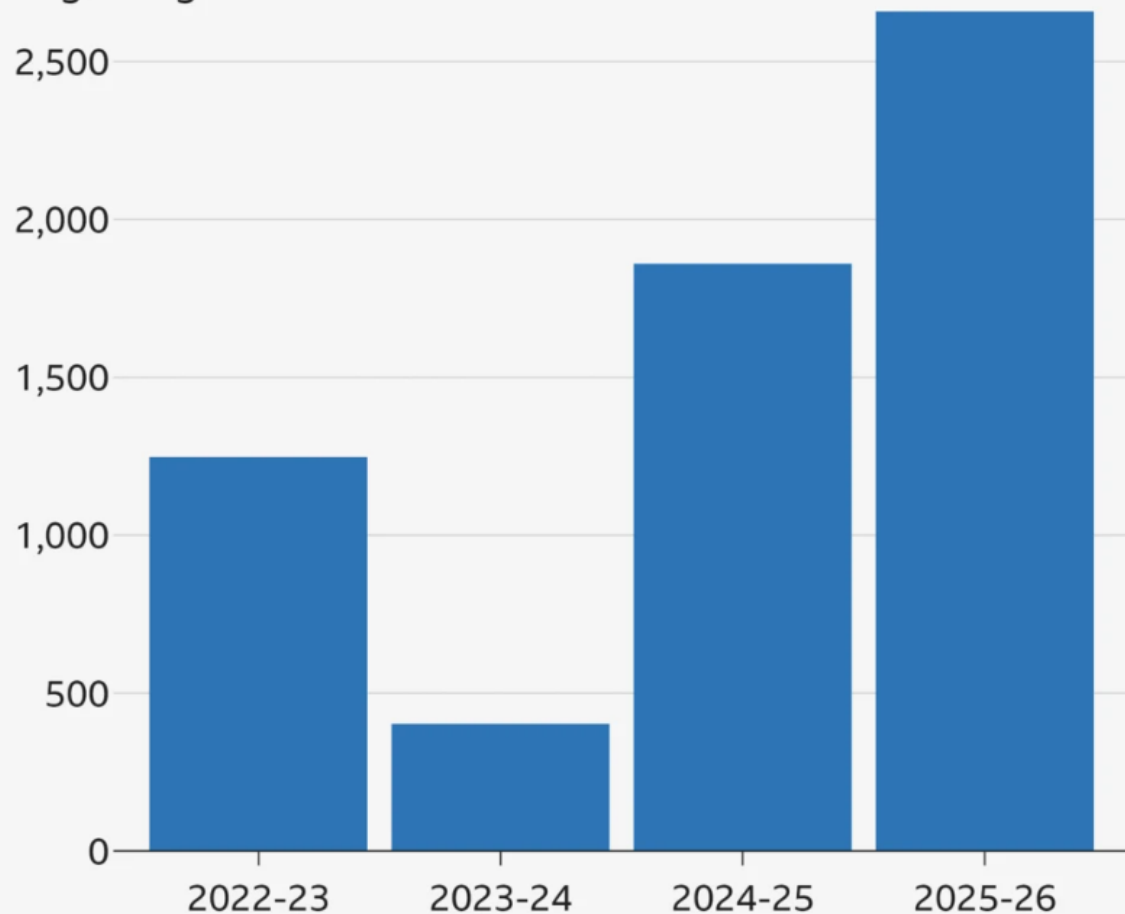
EIDS recommend the adoption of vaccination using Strangvac, as an additional tool for the prevention and control of strangles. Strangvac is a modern, protein-based vaccine developed to help protect horses against strangles. Unlike traditional inactivated whole-organism or modified-live vaccines, Strangvac uses purified fragments of the bacterium to safely stimulate the horse's immune system without causing disease or triggering diagnostics tests. When used alongside good biosecurity and screening practices, it can reduce both the risk of infection and the spread of *S. equi* among horses. The vaccine may also be used to aid the control of confirmed strangles outbreaks as it will not trigger positive diagnostic tests that continue to be recommended for effective outbreak clearance prior to resuming normal activities and movements.

References:
McGlennon, A. (2024). Utilising the 'Surveillance of Equine Strangles' outputs to better understand the dynamics and control of *Streptococcus equi* transmission. London: University of London (Royal Veterinary College).
McGlennon, A. A., Verheyen, K. L., Newton, J. R., van Tonder, A., Wilson, H., Parkhill, J., de Brauwere, N., Frosth, S., & Waller, A. S. (2025). Unwelcome neighbours: Tracking the transmission of *Streptococcus equi* in the United Kingdom horse population. *Equine Veterinary Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/evj.14558>

Equine Disease Surveillance Report Q3 2025

Flu cases higher than in previous years

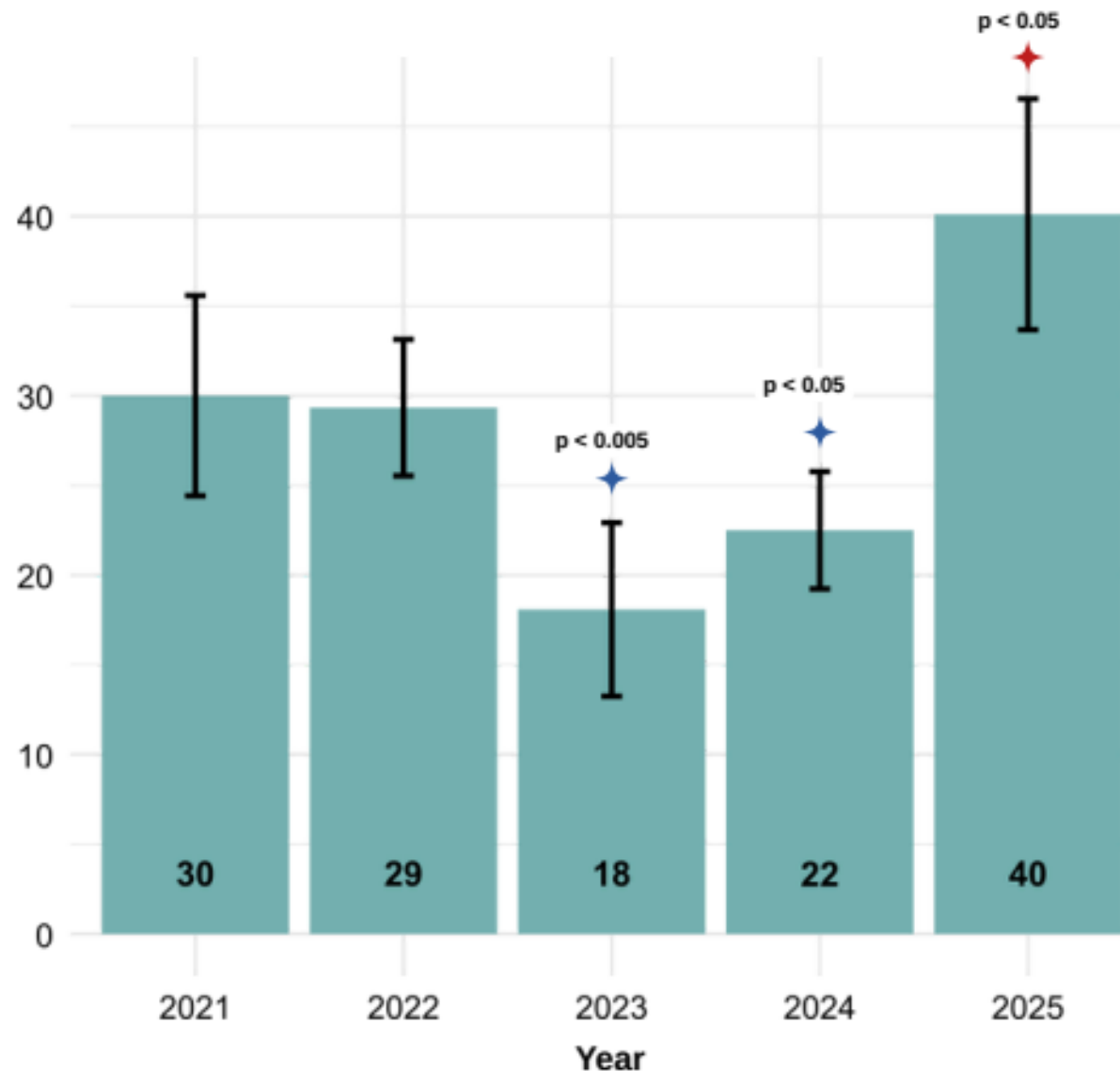
Average flu cases in acute hospitals in England, week beginning 1 December



Source: NHS England

BBC

Average monthly diagnoses



West Nile virus since 1 Jul 2025

Source: ICC

259 reports issued

- 132 N. America (51%)
 - 119 USA & 13 Canada
- 1 Tunisia
- 126 Europe (49%)
 - 65 Italy
 - 56 France
 - 3 Germany
 - 1 Netherlands
 - 1 Hungary



EQUINE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

2025 Q2 QUARTERLY REPORT

Produced by:



VOLUME: 21, No. 2
Apr - Jun 2025

FOCUS ARTICLE

WEST NILE VIRUS IN HORSES: THE LATEST ON SURVEILLANCE, DIAGNOSIS AND PREVENTION IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Fleur Whitlock*, Richard Newton*, Simon King[†], Andra-Maria Ionescu[^], Sara Higgins[^]

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WEST NILE VIRUS IN HORSES: THE LATEST ON SURVEILLANCE, DIAGNOSIS AND PREVENTION IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

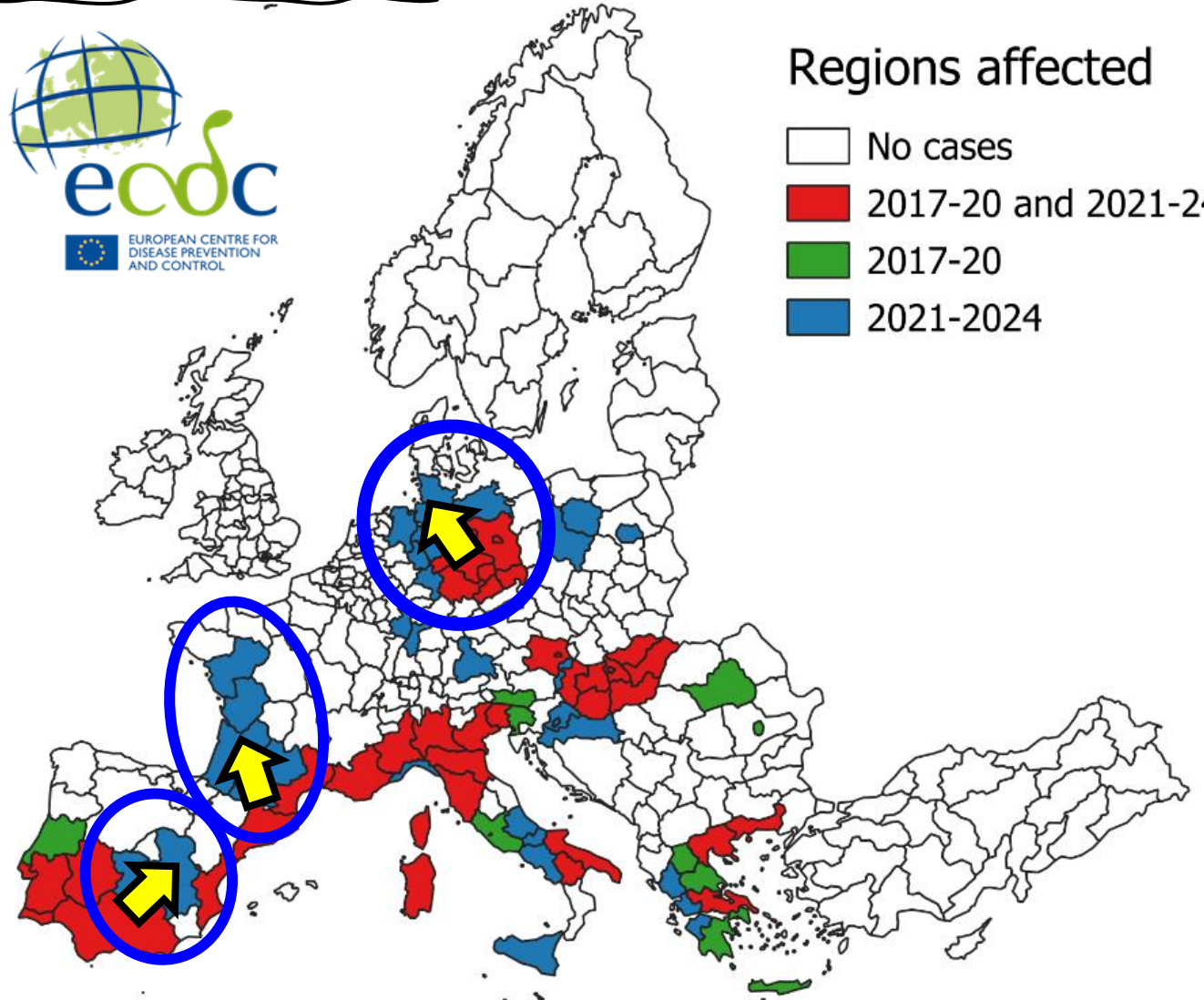
Fleur Whitlock*, Richard Newton*, Simon King[†], Andra-Maria Ionescu[^], Sara Higgins[^]



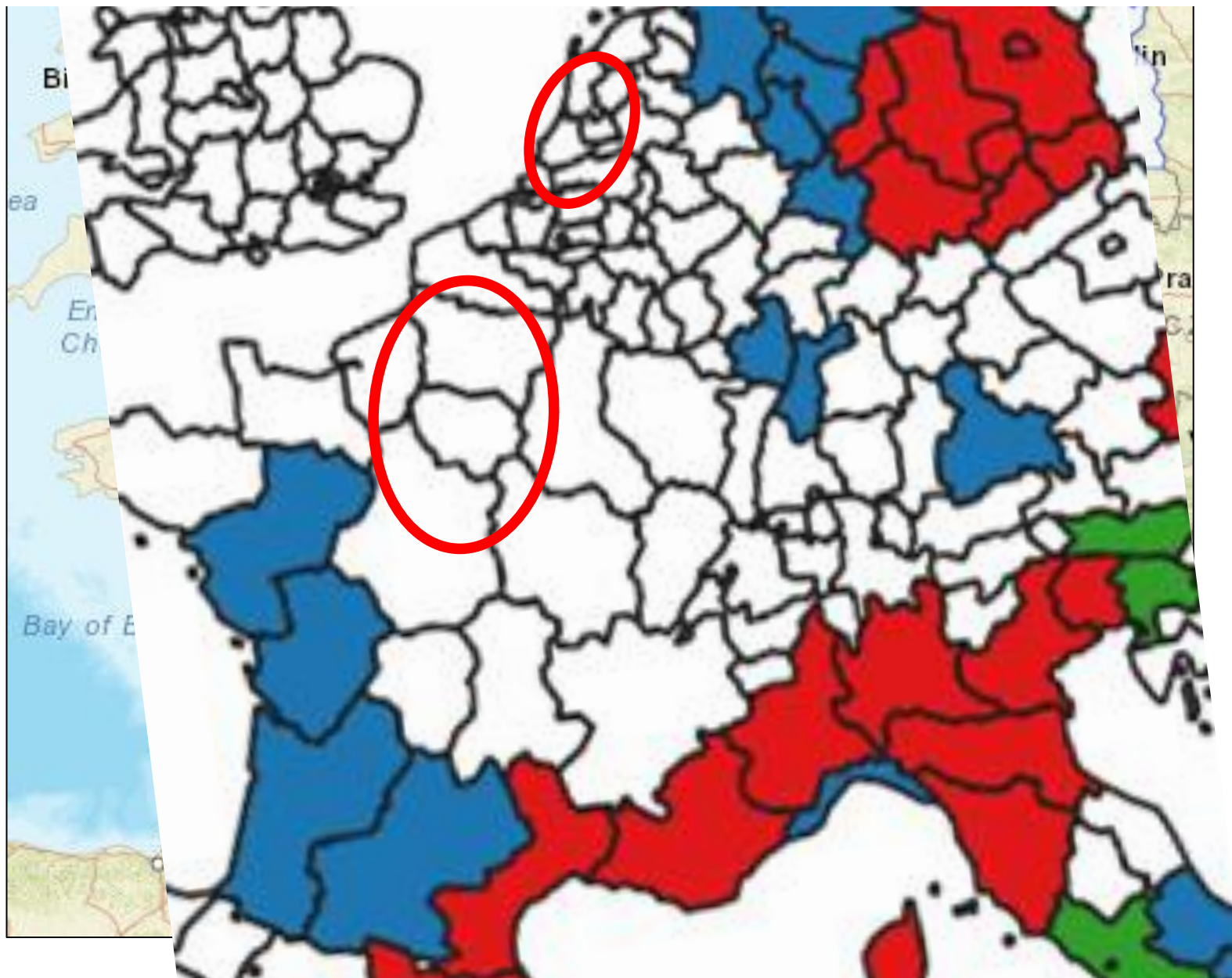
WNV's changing distribution in Europe since 2017-20

Regions affected

-  No cases
-  2017-20 and 2021-24
-  2017-20
-  2021-2024



West Nile virus since 1 Jul 2025



WNV reported this week in France



Alert message

A case of West Nile fever - Hérault (34) - France - 10/12/2025

Disease	West Nile fever
Number of positive cases (in this household)	1
Confirmation date	10/12/2025
Symptoms	hyperthermia
Date of onset of symptoms	19/11/2025

Source: National Reference Laboratory

International Collating Centre - Interim Report Dec 2025 #08 (10.12.25) Inbox x

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to Equine ▾

Dear all

Please find our recent notifications. For more information click on the available links in the table.

If you would like to be removed from the ICC circulation list, please contact us via email with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Condition	Date	Country	Region	Link
WNV - Neurological	2025-12-10	France	Hérault	Click here for more info

International Collating Centre Interim Notification

For full ICC event analysis please visit our [website](#)

Report Date: 2025-12-10
Reported by: RESPE

France - **Hérault**

WNV - **Neurological**

Location of event



Description

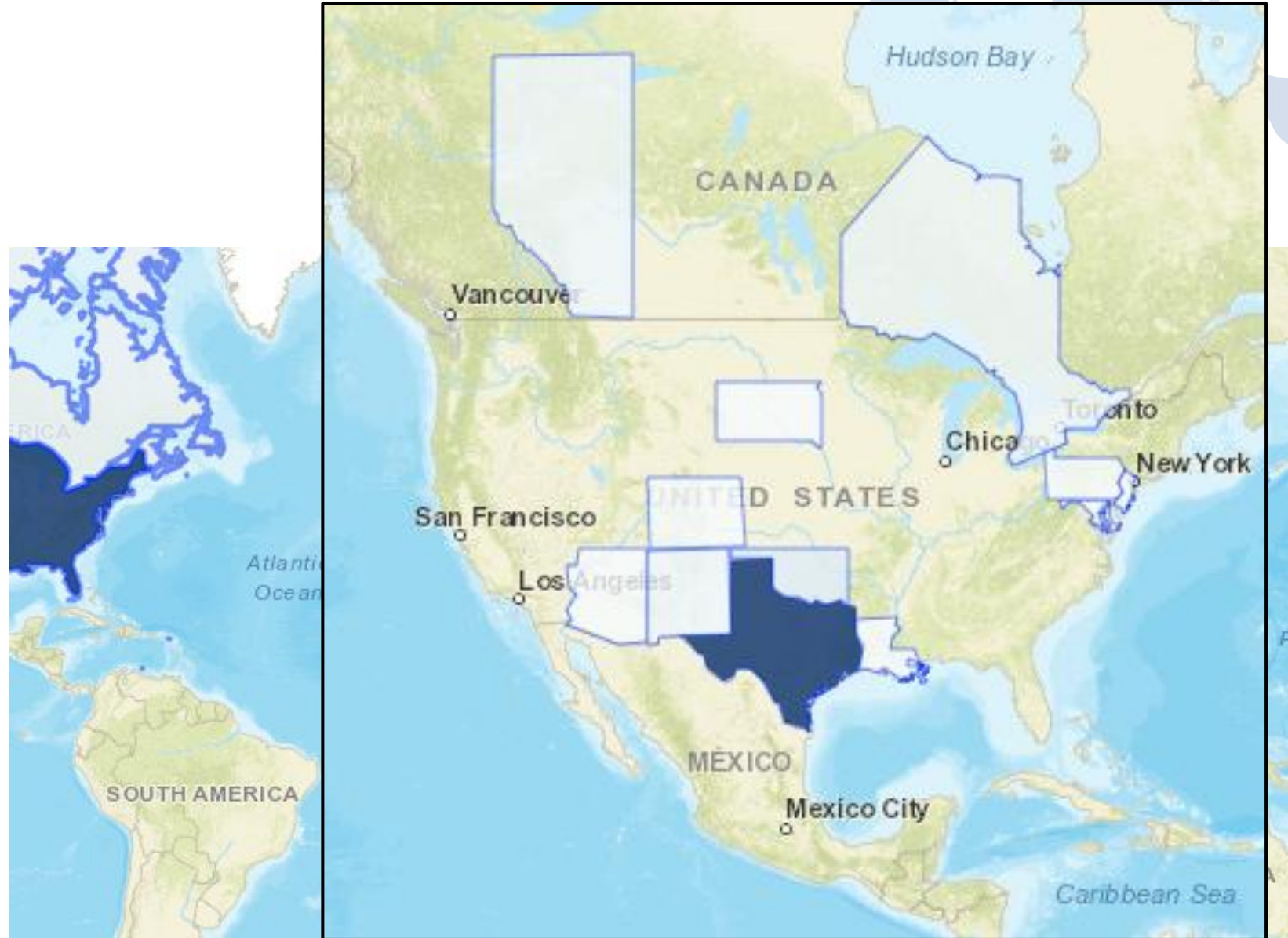
On 10 December 2025, RESPE reported a case of WNV on a premises in Hérault. Clinical signs, first noted on 19 November 2025, included pyrexia. Positive diagnosis was confirmed on 10 December 2025, by the National Reference Laboratory. There are no further detail currently available on this case.

Neurological EHV-1 since 1 Jul 2025

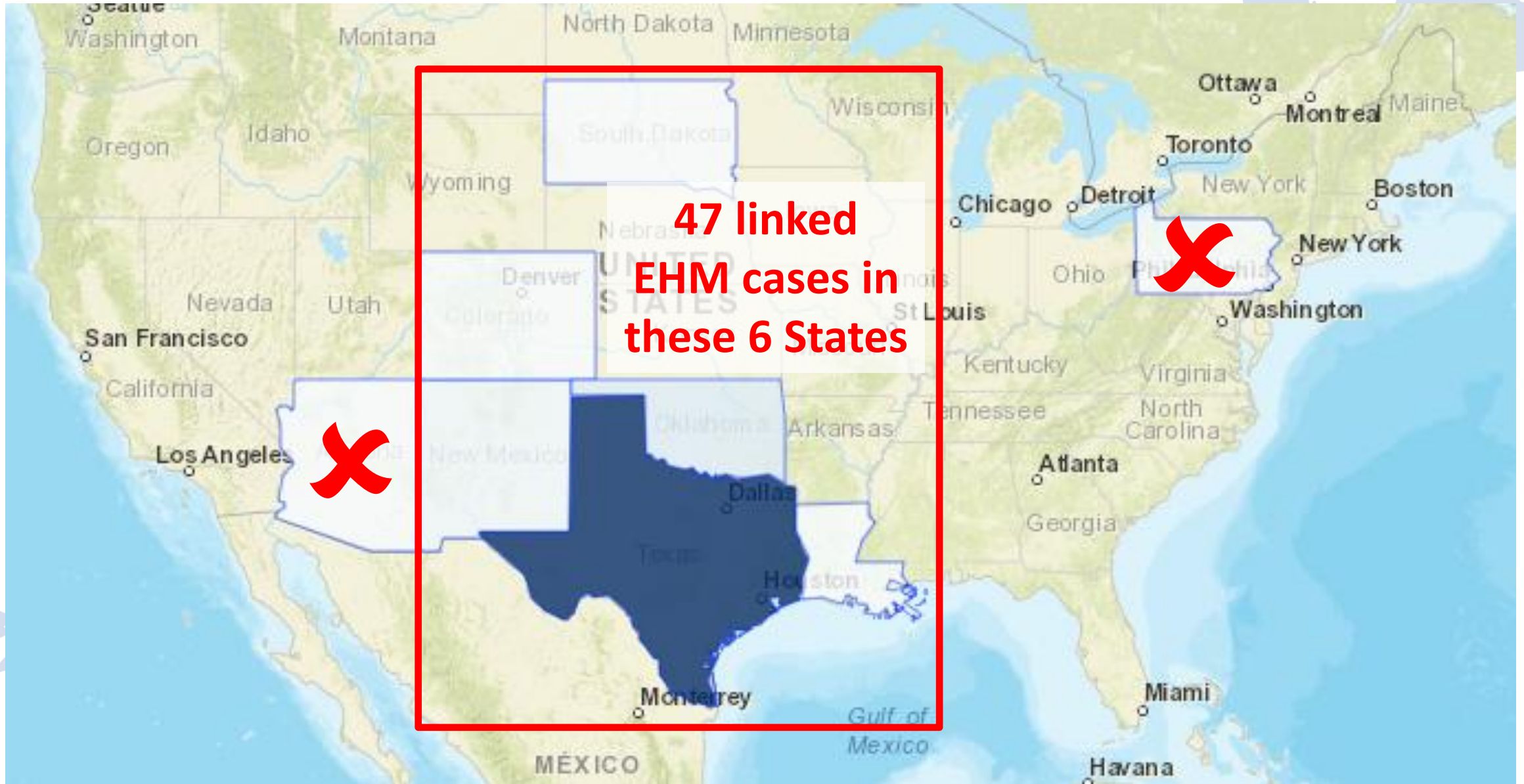
Source: ICC

50 reports issued

- 43 **N. America** (86%)
 - 39 **USA** (91%)
 - 4 Canada
- 5 **Europe**
 - 1 each in France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands & UK
- 1 Japan
- 1 South Africa



Neurological EHV-1 since 19 Nov 2025



Published on November 19, 2025



Barrel Futurities of America Suspends Oklahoma Event Due to EHM Positives

Two positive cases of Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy have caused the cancellation of the remainder of the Barrel Futurities of America (BFA) World Championship. The event was scheduled to run Nov. 17-22 at Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, OK.

The event cancellation comes after the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry confirmed two cases of the neurologic form of EHV-1, Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy. Both positive horses traveled to Oklahoma from Waco, Texas after participating in the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) World Finals and Elite Barrel Race event Nov. 5-9.

AAEP/EDCC webinar 25 Nov

Learn More About EHV-1

On Nov. 25th the American Association of Equine Practitioners and Equine Disease Communication Center produced a webinar for horse owners to learn more about the equine herpesvirus outbreak in Texas. Drs. Krista Estell, Dr. Katie Flynn and Texas state veterinarian Dr. Lewis "Bud" Dinges, presented information about the virus, biosecurity, and an update the status of the outbreak that originated at the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) World Finals and Elite Barrel Race event Nov. 5-9 in Waco, Texas. This includes the latest information on virus transmission and how to protect horses at events.

To follow the outbreak count and the states involved, go [HERE](#)

To learn more about EHV-1 follow [HERE](#)





TEXAS
ANIMAL HEALTH
COMMISSION

Outbreak Timeline

- November 5-9 – WRPA World Finals and Elite Barrel Race event held in Waco

- Contestants: 670 total
 - 31 states
 - 497 Texas
 - 173 other states/Canada
 - 4 Canadian Provinces

**Ability to trace contacts
is critical to effective
disease control !!**




PANELISTS:

Bud Dinges, DVM

Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

Krista Estell, DVM, DACVIM

Watch on  YouTube

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF EQUINE PRACTITIONERS



TEXAS
ANIMAL HEALTH
COMMISSION

As of 25 Nov 2025

Current Situation

- Exposure occurrences confirmed
 - 16 Texas events
- Epidemiological traces
 - Texas traces: 1,500+
 - Other states with traces: 34 states + 4 Canadian provinces
- Confirmed EHM cases
 - Texas: 19 cases
 - Texas + 7 states with positive horses





Biosecurity Risk: horse to horse contact

11 Dec update on officially confirmed EHV-1 cases linked to Waco, TX barrel racing event

State	EHV-1 PCR positive, respiratory cases	EHV-1 PCR positive, EHM cases	EHV-1 PCR positive, subclinical cases
Texas	4	30	1
Oklahoma	3	9	
Louisiana		3	
South Dakota		1	
Colorado		1	
New Mexico		3	
Arizona			3
Washington	2		