

Updated Outbreak Assessment #5

Newcastle disease (ND) in Europe

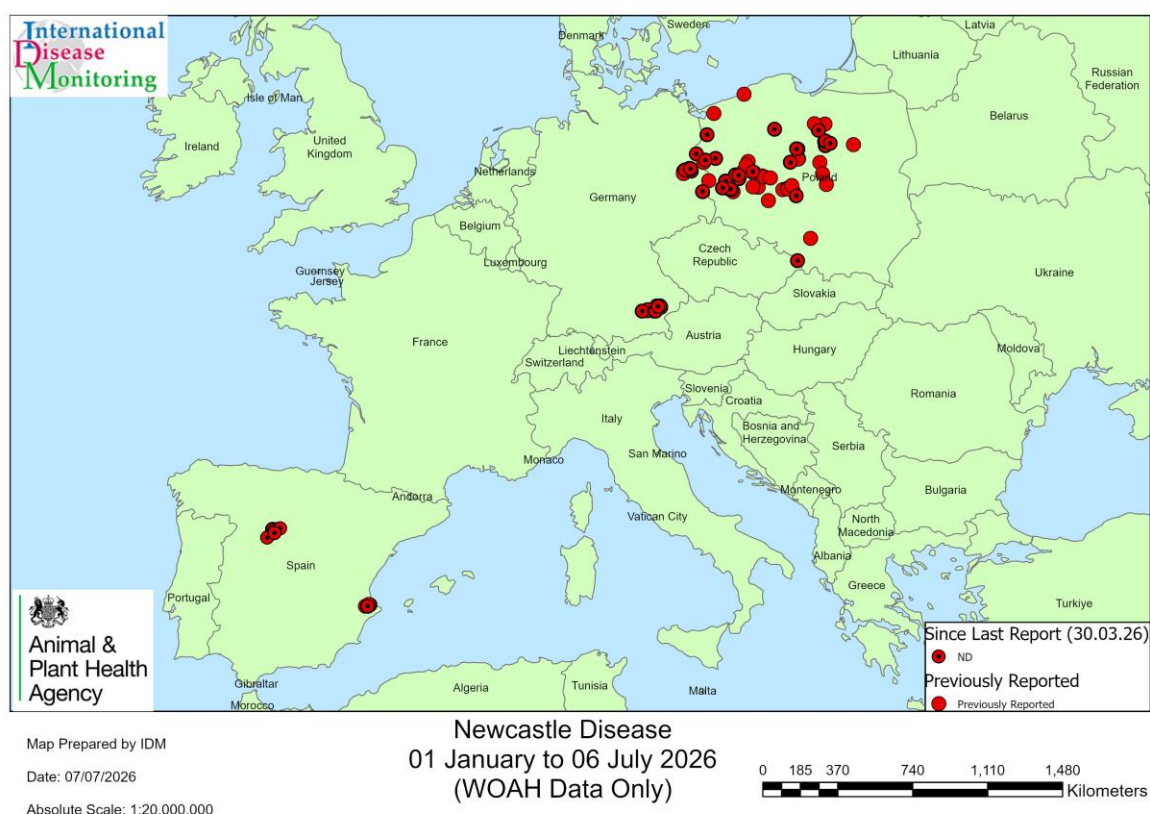
6 July 2026

Disease report

Since our previous outbreak assessment on 30 March 2026 ([Newcastle Disease in Europe](#)), ND has been reported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Spain (MAPA) in the Valladolid region of Spain, beginning on 15 June, the first outbreaks to have occurred outside of the province of Valencia ([WOAH](#), [MAPA](#)). Thirteen outbreaks have now been reported in the area, and they are in close proximity with each other, so are considered to be epidemiologically linked. However, they have occurred more than 400km from any other known outbreaks, and there are no known epidemiological links between these outbreaks and previous ones.

A series of outbreaks was also reported in Valencia between 9 April and 8 May ([WOAH](#)), representing an increase in ND compared to the single outbreak reported in Valencia in February and March (see our [previous assessment](#)). However, these outbreaks are considered resolved and restrictions have been lifted in Valencia following favourable surveillance and the lack of new outbreaks (MAPA).

Outbreaks of ND elsewhere in Europe have generally declined. There has been a considerable decline in the incidence of outbreaks in Germany ([PAFF](#)). Outbreaks have remained restricted to the two foci in Bayern and Brandenburg, as described in our [previous assessment](#). Just one further outbreak has occurred in Bayern, on 10 April, and 11 outbreaks have occurred in Brandenburg, the last occurring on 26 May ([WOAH](#)). 18 further outbreaks in poultry have occurred in Poland (WOAH). There has been a decline in cases in captive birds in Poland, according to the Animal Disease Information System ([ADIS](#)), with 26 occurring in Poland since our previous assessment. Twenty-five outbreaks in captive birds have been reported in Czechia in the same period ([ADIS](#)).



Map 1: Map of Europe showing outbreaks of Newcastle disease in domestic poultry reported to WOA from 01 January 2026 to 6 July 2026. Those events since our previous assessment on 30 March 2026 have dotted centres.

Situation assessment

Newcastle disease (ND) is the result of infection in poultry with avian paramyxovirus serotype 1 (APMV-1).

Spain

Eighteen outbreaks of ND in Spain have been reported to WOA since our last assessment on [30 March 2026](#). This represents a substantial increase in outbreaks. Just one outbreak had been reported since January up to this point, on 9 March 2026, within a 10km SZ that was established after the previous outbreaks, but the measures were lifted in February after the situation was considered to be resolved (WOAH). Additionally, whilst further outbreaks were reported in Valencia throughout April and May, beginning in June, Spain has also reported the first cases of ND outside of the region of Valencia, representing a large geographical jump.

Regarding the situation in Valencia, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Spain (MAPA), an increase in mortality of approximately 10% was reported in a farm of 26,300 35-day old broilers in Vall d'Albaida, Valencia,

approximately 10km from a previous outbreak in the region that occurred on 9 March. The animals were tested on 4 April. The presence of velogenic ND was confirmed by PCR and reported on 9 April ([MAPA](#)). The birds had been fully vaccinated. Measures were immediately taken including movement restrictions, epidemiological investigations, sanitary depopulation of the premises, and the removal and destruction of carcasses, feed and other potentially contaminated materials, and the creation of a 10km restriction zone. Four subsequent outbreaks were reported by MAPA, occurring on [9 April](#), 10 April, [28 April](#) and [8 May](#). These premises were all within 3km of one another. They contained vaccinated birds, mostly broilers, and laying hens in the case of the outbreak on 8 May. The flock of laying hens, unlike the flocks of broilers, was not reported to have increased mortality, instead there was a reported fall in egg production on 5 May.

On 15 June 2026, on a broiler farm in the Valladolid region in northwest Spain, more than 400km from other recent outbreaks, MAPA reported an outbreak of ND, the first outbreak to occur outside of the province of Valencia. The farm comprised 24,000 unvaccinated 43-day old broilers, which were reported to have a 6.7% increase in mortality on 12 June. Velogenic ND was confirmed by PCR and reported to WOAHP on 15 June. Restrictions were imposed consistent with those described in the outbreaks in Valencia.

Four subsequent cases in Valladolid were reported the following week by MAPA, and to WOAHP. Due to the proximity to the initial outbreak in Valladolid, they are considered to be secondary outbreaks. Two of those newly affected farms comprised vaccinated laying hens. No clinical signs were reported, and ND was instead discovered through active surveillance carried out following the initial outbreak in the area. The third farm comprised unvaccinated broilers and observed a 40% increase in mortality. The fourth farm comprised vaccinated laying hens, and suspected ND was reported on 17 June following a decrease in egg laying and slight increase in mortality. Further outbreaks on farms in the area have continued to occur in subsequent weeks. There have now been thirteen outbreaks in the area of Valencia, with the most recent outbreak reported on 6 July ([MAPA](#), [WAHIS](#)).

Samples from all farms in the area has been confirmed as velogenic ND by PCR and the same set of restrictions and mitigations as mentioned previously were put in place ([MAPA](#)). No epidemiological link is known between the previously reported outbreaks in Valencia, and these outbreaks.

Additionally, partial sequence data indicates the circulating strain in the recent Valladolid outbreaks is genotype VII.2, which is distinct from the VII.1.1 strain identified in the current outbreaks in Valencia, corroborating the lack of epidemiological connection between the outbreaks. Restrictions were lifted on 22 June in Valencia following favourable surveillance and the lack of new outbreaks.

Germany

There has been a considerable decrease in ND outbreaks in Germany in recent weeks. As described in our previous assessment (Newcastle Disease in Europe), ND was first reported in a flock in Brandenburg, Germany, close to the border with Poland.

<https://www.vetline.de/newcastle-krankheit-in-brandenburg-und-bayern-bestaetigt> On 25 February 2026 a second outbreak of ND in Germany was confirmed at a poultry farm in Bayern, approximately 85km from the border with the Czech Republic. Brandenburg and Bayern have remained the two foci of ND in Germany and there has not been further spread over large distances (see map 1) in commercial poultry.

According to the June [PAFF presentation](#), outbreaks in Germany peaked in March and early April and have declined since, and according to [WOAH](#), just one further outbreak has occurred in Bayern, on 10 April, bringing the total to 20 outbreaks. Additionally, following a high of 13 ongoing outbreaks, 5 of these have been regarded as resolved on 3 June ([WOAH](#)). A further 11 outbreaks have occurred in Brandenburg, bringing the total to 48 outbreaks. However, the majority of these occurred in April, with a single outbreak starting on 26 May, and no further outbreaks occurring ([WOAH](#)). According to the June [PAFF presentation](#), 14 sets of restrictions have now been lifted, and all remaining restricted zones in Bayern were removed by 27 June. Additionally, as reported in the PAFF presentation, there have been three noted outbreaks in wild birds on 1 April, 6 May and 1 June.

The genotype of the outbreaks is VII.1.1, which is closely related to the viral strain circulating in Poland, according to the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI).

Vaccination against ND is currently compulsory for chickens and turkeys in Germany, including for hobby farms, and has been in place since the 1990s. However, according to the FLI, even when vaccination of chicks begins at one-week post-hatch, full, active immunity is not achieved until six weeks post-hatch. Moreover, maternally derived antibodies begin to decline rapidly at approximately one-week post-hatch, leading to a so-called “physiological gap”, during which there is an unavoidable period of lower immunity. This is corroborated by epidemiological data collected in Germany during 2026. According to the June [PAFF presentation](#), data from German outbreaks shows that vaccination, while not preventing ND virus from entering flocks, does provide effective clinical protection for laying hens and breeding flocks. However, younger animals (broiler chickens and rearing flocks) show more clinical signs and higher mortality.

Poland

According to [WOAH](#), 18 outbreaks have been reported in Poland (see map 1) since our previous assessment on [30 March 2026](#), in a period of approximately three months. This represents a moderate decrease from the 22 outbreaks that were reported in the roughly two-month period between 27 January and 30 March 2026, covered in our previous assessments. According to data from [ADIS](#), 26 outbreaks in non-poultry have occurred in Poland in April – 6 July 2026 to date, lower than the 43 outbreaks in non-poultry that were reported in January – March 2026.

According to the [June PAFF presentation](#), laboratory testing to ensure the effectiveness of the vaccination campaign is ongoing, and a pilot vaccination program in captive birds has begun in Wielkopolskie Voivodeship, in which captive birds (including all backyard poultry holdings) within 3km of known ND outbreaks are being vaccinated.

Czechia

According to [data from ADIS](#), Czechia has reported 25 outbreaks in captive birds and non-poultry in April – 6 July 2026 to date, similar to the 24 outbreaks reported in January – March 2026. In the update to [PAFF](#) in June 2026, most outbreaks have been in the Moravian-Silesian region, close to the eastern end of the border with Poland and along the border with Slovakia. Three restriction zones were in place at the time of writing, two of which overlapped with Poland.

All confirmed outbreaks in captive birds have been in small-scale flocks, generally with outdoor access and low biosecurity, even though in restricted zones farmers must keep poultry, water and feed indoors if possible. It is believed that the source of infection is wild birds, and the State Veterinary Administration is currently monitoring ND in wild birds. In Czechia, vaccination is mandatory for breeding flocks of chickens, registered flocks of laying hens, pheasant breeding and rearing farms, and turkey fattening farms. Whilst it is recommended, it is not mandatory for small-scale farms ([PAFF](#)).

Implications for Great Britain

Great Britain applies disease safeguard measures and lists countries and regions approved for export of live poultry and poultry meat according to regionalisation. Therefore, no such products can be consigned to Great Britain from a disease restriction zone. Nevertheless, there are uncertainties around why there have been the large number of outbreaks in Europe, particularly now considering the outbreaks in Valladolid. Serological monitoring in Poland has previously found protective antibody titres to be below desired levels in broilers and turkey fattening flocks ([PAFF 2026](#)). The origins of ND in Valladolid are not currently known, but strict controls are

in place. It will be important to monitor the situation in Spain, particularly to observe for any further large geographical jumps in the occurrence of ND. The epidemiological situation appears to be improving in Germany and Poland, with fewer outbreaks in recent months than previous periods.

As of 25 April 2025, it has been mandatory to vaccinate flocks on commercial farms against ND in the entire territory of Poland. Vaccination of chickens and turkeys on both commercial and hobby premises is also mandatory in Germany, and is mandatory for many types of commercial premises, and recommended for small-scale farms, in Czechia. As discussed in a previous assessment we produced on the 6 June 2025 ([Newcastle disease \(ND\) in Poland and Europe](#)), it is well documented that outbreaks of ND can still occur in the face of vaccination. However, there is no evidence to suggest that vaccines are ineffective. Data from outbreaks in Germany suggests that vaccines are effective at preventing or reducing clinical signs in older birds but are less effective in young animals during an unavoidable period of lower immunity whilst antibodies are developing. This appears to be corroborated by the recent outbreaks in Spain, in which the highest increases in mortality occurred in unvaccinated flocks, and fully vaccinated laying hens exhibited lower mortality, or in some cases, no clinical signs at all. Additionally, outbreaks in Czechia have been limited to small-scale flocks, which typically have lower biosecurity and for which vaccination is not mandatory.

At this time of year (late June/early July) there is little or no wild bird migration into GB, although sea birds may be moving into GB waters. In particular, the spring migration northward from Spain and France has ended. Small numbers of wading birds will start to arrive in July from their breeding sites in Scandinavia and northern Europe. The main autumn migration starts in September with large numbers of birds (waders, thrushes, passerine, ducks, geese and swans) flying into or through GB on their way south from Scandinavia, northern Europe and further afield. Of particular significance is the large number of winter thrushes (fieldfares and redwings) and other passerines including blackbirds and robins, together with birds like woodcocks, which may come from the Baltic States and Poland through northern Germany where ND outbreaks have been prevalent recently. Thus, currently the risk of entry of ND into GB through wild birds is very low and at a minimum although this may increase through the autumn depending on levels of ND in Poland and Germany. It is anticipated an increase in ND would be seen in western Germany and the Netherlands as a prelude. Should ND continue in central Europe with spread into western Europe this autumn, then an assessment of the migration of woodpigeons into GB would be of relevance

Conclusion

Newcastle disease virus is continuing to spread in commercial and non-commercial poultry. There has been a reduction in cases in Germany and Poland, but the occurrence of outbreaks in a new area of Spain, far from any existing outbreaks and

with no known epidemiological links, is of concern. It suggests that there is continued spread in Spain within the wild bird population. With several countries now implementing vaccination campaigns, this may put strain on vaccine supply logistics.

Despite the increased infection pressure in parts of Europe, notably in Spain, the risk of introduction of ND into poultry in Great Britain is reduced to **low**, due to the low likelihood of migratory birds arriving from Spain and other affected areas at this point in time. Regionalisation is in place to prevent introduction of ND via trade, but disease may be introduced via illegal trade, wild birds or fomites, or where vaccination protocols are sub-optimal, and these events highlight the background risk to commercial poultry from feral pigeons as potential carriers of ND. Pigeon paramyxovirus type 1 (PPMV-1) is endemic in pigeons in Great Britain and Europe.

Importantly, the association of wild birds with APMV-1 infection remains poorly understood and so, with the exception of Columbiformes that maintain an endemic cycle of PPMV-1, risk factors from different wild birds and migratory pathways are hard to define. Current outbreaks in poultry across Europe are not caused by PPMV-1 strains and so a significant knowledge gap remains in the role and risk of different avian species and APMV-1 infection.

It is recommended that poultry keepers consider vaccinating their flocks and practice good biosecurity. Vaccines for ND with marketing authorisations are commercially available in the UK and vaccination is common in most, if not all, commercial layers, layer breeders and broiler breeders. It is also common in most turkey breeders and some commercial turkeys and broilers (Newcastle disease in Europe).

We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

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PAFF (2026) ([Presentation: PAFF Committee – Animal health and welfare - 19-20 January 2026 - Newcastle Disease in Poland](#))



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