

Updated Outbreak Assessment #6

Newcastle disease (ND) in Europe

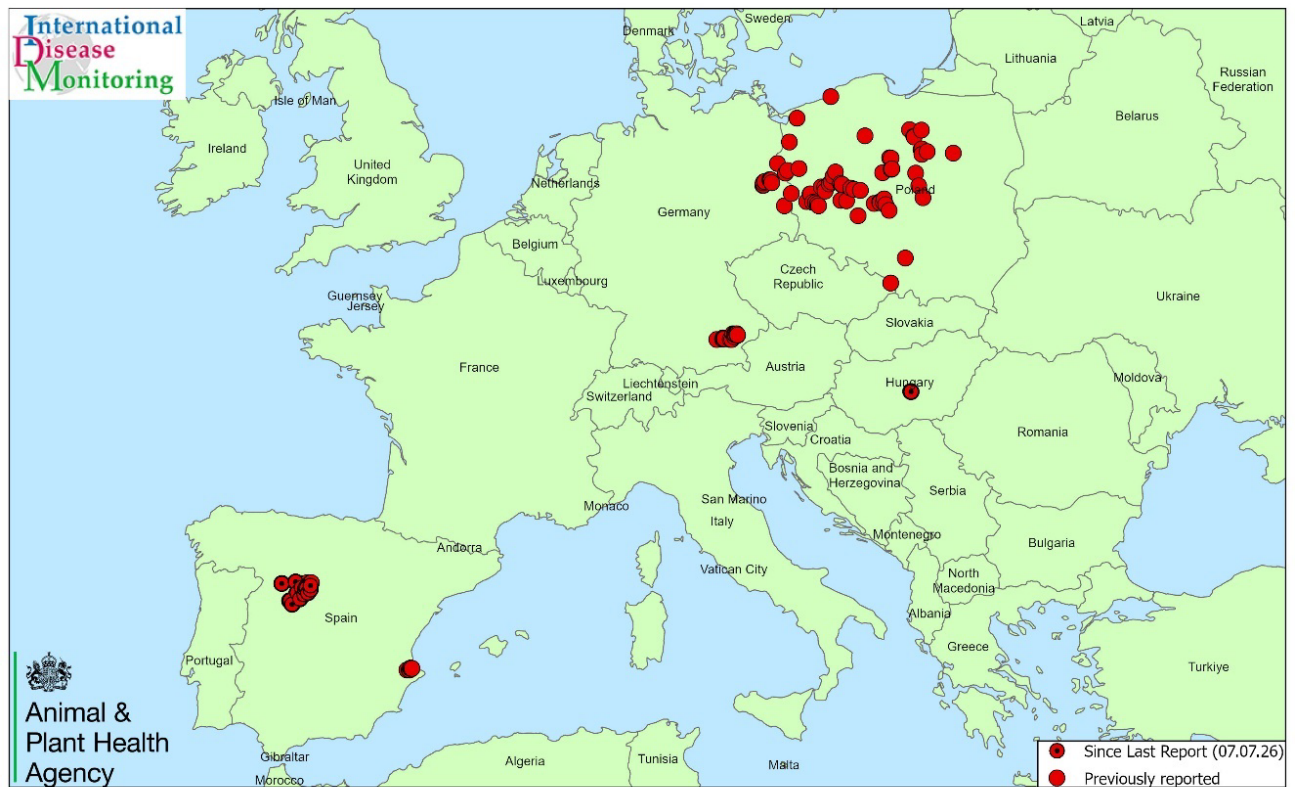
11 September 2026

Disease report

Since our previous outbreak assessment on 6 July 2026 ([Newcastle Disease in Europe](#)), Hungary has reported two ND outbreaks in poultry flocks to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (see Map) ([WOAH, 2026a](#)). Both outbreaks occurred in Bács-Kiskun County and were confirmed on 9 September 2026. According to Hungary's National Food Chain Safety Office, these are Hungary's first ND reports in decades ([Nébih, 2026](#)). Together, the affected flocks comprised approximately 219,000 broilers ([WOAH, 2026a](#)).

Since our last assessment, Spain has reported an additional 16 outbreaks of ND in poultry in Valladolid province to WOAH ([WOAH, 2026b](#)). The affected premises housed between 10,600 and 125,000 birds. During this period, no new poultry outbreaks of ND were reported to WOAH in Germany or Czechia ([WOAH, 2026c](#)). Poland reported one additional poultry outbreak as of 8 September 2026, involving a farm in Lubuskie with 78,673 birds ([WOAH, 2026d](#)). However, Czechia has reported a further 21 outbreaks of ND in non-poultry birds (Eurasian collared doves). These outbreaks were reported across 15 regions, including Pelhřimov, Liberec and Mladá Boleslav ([ADIS, 2026](#)).

Since our last assessment, there have also been two outbreaks of ND in non-poultry birds in Lithuania. Limited information is available on the species affected. However, one of the outbreaks involved rock pigeons ([ADIS, 2026](#)).



Map Prepared by IDM

Date: 11/09/2026

Absolute Scale: 1:20,000,000

Newcastle Disease
01 January to 11 September 2026
(WOAH Data Only)

0 185 370 740 1,110 1,480
Kilometers

Map of Europe showing outbreaks of Newcastle disease in domestic poultry reported to WOA from 1 January 2026 to 11 September 2026. Those events since our previous assessment on 6 July 2026 have dotted centres.

Situation assessment

Newcastle disease (ND) is a viral disease of birds caused by avian paramyxovirus serotype 1 (APMV-1). For official control purposes, ND refers specifically to the most severe forms of the disease caused by certain strains of the virus. It is considered one of the most important poultry diseases worldwide because of its significant animal welfare, trade and economic impacts. The detection of ND can trigger disease control measures and trade restrictions, with significant consequences for the poultry industry ([CFSPH, 2016](#)).

Hungary

The first signs of ND on the two infected broiler farms in Hungary included increased mortality, decreased feed and water intake and “greenish” diarrhoea. Before the outbreaks were confirmed, Hungary’s chief veterinarian ordered the culling of the affected flocks, based on clinical suspicion. Culling operations and epidemiological investigations into the source of the outbreak are ongoing ([Kahout, 2026](#)). The genotype of the virus responsible for the outbreaks has not yet been reported.

Information on the vaccination history of the affected flocks and their post-vaccination immunity is not available. As a result, it is not possible to assess whether inadequate population-level immunity contributed to flock susceptibility ([BEACON, 2026](#)). Preventive vaccination against ND is mandatory in Hungary under Decree 163/2009 (XI. 27) FVM. This extends to chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, farmed pheasants, quails and partridges. The decree requires vaccination of day-old chicks, revaccination at 14 to 28 days of age and, for large breeding and laying flocks, additional vaccination with an inactivated vaccine. Hungary also has legal requirements relating to the implementation and monitoring of vaccination effectiveness. The timing and method of sampling depend on the applicable regulations and the vaccination programme being used. While vaccination significantly reduces the risk of clinical disease and viral transmission, vaccinated birds may still become infected ([Nébih, 2026b](#)).

The infected premises are subject to mandatory cleaning and disinfection ([WOAH, 2026a](#)). The Hungarian authorities have also established restricted zones around the premises under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687. These comprise a protection zone of at least 3 km and a surveillance zone of at least 10 km. Within the restricted zones, movement controls apply to poultry, captive birds, and their products. Enhanced disease surveillance is also being undertaken including clinical inspections, epidemiological investigations, tracing of potentially exposed establishments, and risk-based diagnostic sampling and testing to identify any onward spread and support disease eradication.

Spain

The poultry outbreaks reported in Spain since December 2025 have occurred in two autonomous communities: Castile and León and the Valencian Community. The 16 outbreaks reported since our last assessment have all occurred in Castile and León, with the most recent outbreak reported on 8 September 2026. As described in our previous assessment, ND was first confirmed in poultry in Castile and León, initially in Valladolid province, on 15 June 2026, more than 400 km from the earlier outbreaks reported in the Valencian Community ([WOAH, 2026b](#)). Importantly, the outbreaks in both communities were caused by genetically distinct viruses. The ND viruses detected in the Valencian Community between late December 2025 and early May 2026 belonged to genotype VII.1.1, whereas viruses detected in Valladolid province (Castile and León) belonged to genotype VII.2. These findings indicate that the outbreaks in the Valencian Community and Valladolid province are not epidemiologically linked ([Plateforme ESA, 2026a](#)).

Since our last assessment, the number of new ND outbreaks reported in Spain has decreased overall ([Plateforme ESA, 2026a](#)). Approximately 15 ND outbreaks in poultry and captive birds were reported between 29 June and 26 July 2026. In August 2026, this fell to two outbreaks, both in broiler flocks ([Plateforme ESA, 2026a](#)). Only one outbreak has been reported in September to date, also in poultry ([WOAH, 2026b](#)).

The reduction in the number of new ND outbreaks in Spain coincides with the introduction of further disease control measures in Valladolid province, announced on 9 July 2026. Key measures include the recommended slaughter of broiler flocks within the restricted zone and enhanced poultry-farm biosecurity to reduce direct and indirect contact with wild birds. Authorities have also reinforced passive surveillance in poultry and wild birds and established a Further Restricted Zone (FRZ). The FRZ extends beyond the standard 3 km protection and 10 km surveillance zones established around each infected premises. It comprises all the municipalities within the same units as or geographically adjacent to those affected by the outbreaks ([MAPA, 2026a](#)).

Within the FRZ, movement of poultry is prohibited unless authorised by the competent authority. Authorised movements are subject to enhanced controls, including clinical inspections, verification of biosecurity and vaccination requirements, and the cleaning and disinfection of facilities and transport vehicles. Restocking of poultry is subject to a risk assessment by the competent authority. Enhanced epidemiological surveillance is being conducted, including clinical inspections and monitoring of water and feed consumption, mortality, laying rates and other epidemiological indicators. Poultry keepers are being reminded of biosecurity requirements, and direct sales and short supply chain marketing activities for agri-food products have been temporarily suspended ([MAPA, 2026a](#)).

Vaccination against ND has also been made mandatory for poultry in the restricted areas of Valladolid province, although there have been issues with lack of available vaccines, particularly live attenuated vaccines, due to increased demand from other affected areas of the EU ([MAPA, 2026b](#)).

Following favourable surveillance results and the absence of further outbreak reports, ND restrictions in the Valencian Community were lifted on 22 June 2026 ([MAPA, 2026b](#)).

Germany

As described in our previous assessment, ND was first reported in a poultry flock in Brandenburg, Germany, on 19 February 2026, close to the Polish border. The ND virus identified belongs to genotype VII.1.1 and is closely but not directly related to the viral strain circulating in Poland, according to the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI). The number of new ND outbreaks peaked at the end of March 2026, with more than 30 outbreaks in poultry and 10 outbreaks in captive birds reported in Bavaria and Eastern Germany (Brandenburg and Berlin). It decreased from April ([Plateforme ESA, 2026a](#)). The last poultry outbreak was reported on 26 May 2026 and the last non-poultry outbreak reported on 30 April 2026 ([WOAH, 2026c](#), [ADIS, 2026](#)). Vaccination against ND is currently compulsory for chickens and turkeys in Germany, including for hobby farms, and has been in place since the 1990s ([PAFF, 2026a](#)).

Poland

In Poland, the number of reported ND outbreaks peaked in December 2025, with 20 poultry outbreaks detected and more than 25 outbreaks in captive birds. However, it has decreased since January 2026, with only one poultry outbreak reported since our last assessment and no new outbreaks in captive birds ([ADIS, 2026](#)). To control disease spread, the authorities have ordered the culling of the affected flocks, with cleaning and disinfection of infected premises. A 3 km protection and 10 km surveillance zone has also been established around each infected premises in accordance with EU law, where poultry and captive birds are subject to movement restrictions and enhanced surveillance, including clinical inspection ([WOAH, 2026d](#)).

As described in our June 2025 assessment ([Newcastle disease \(ND\) in Poland and Europe](#)), vaccination of chickens (broilers, layers and breeders) and turkey flocks has been mandatory in Poland since April 2025. Laboratory testing to ensure the effectiveness of the vaccination campaign is ongoing, and a pilot vaccination programme in captive birds has begun in Wielkopolskie Voivodeship, in which captive birds (including all backyard poultry holdings) within 3 km of known ND outbreaks are being vaccinated ([PAFF, 2026b](#)).

Czechia

Since January 2026, all ND outbreaks reported in Czechia have been in non-poultry (captive) birds ([Plateforme ESA, 2026a](#)). The number of ND outbreak reports in Czechia peaked in February 2026, with more than 10 outbreaks detected in captive birds, compared with three outbreaks in August 2026 ([Plateforme ESA, 2026a](#)). The latest captive bird outbreak was reported on 9 September 2026 ([ADIS, 2026](#)).

Based on Czechia's latest PAFF presentation ([2026c](#)) in June 2026, most reported ND 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. Wild birds are considered the most likely source of infection, 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 vaccination is recommended, it is not mandatory for small-scale farms ([PAFF, 2026c](#)).

Lithuania

The first ND outbreak in non-poultry birds in Lithuania was reported on 2 February 2026 but was not included in our previous assessment. The two outbreaks in non-poultry birds reported since our last assessment occurred on 10 July and 17 August 2026. The three outbreaks were reported in the Vilniaus, Kėdainių and Joniškio regions ([Plateforme ESA, 2026a](#)).

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 legally consigned to Great Britain from a disease restriction zone. Nevertheless, uncertainty remains regarding the factors responsible for the large number of outbreaks reported in Europe. Serological monitoring in Poland has previously found protective antibody titres to be below desired levels in broilers and turkey fattening flocks ([PAFF, 2026b](#)). The origins of ND in Hungary are not currently known, but strict controls are in place. It will be important to monitor the situation in Spain, particularly for any further substantial geographical jumps in disease occurrence.

As discussed in our June 2026 assessment ([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 ([PAFF, 2026a](#)). This is consistent with observations from 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 ([MAPA, 2026c](#)). Additionally, outbreaks in Czechia have been limited to small-scale flocks, which typically have lower biosecurity and for which vaccination is not mandatory ([PAFF, 2026c](#)).

At this time of year (mid-September) there is a significant migration in progress of wild birds into Great Britain, with large numbers of birds (waders, thrushes, passerines, ducks, geese and swans) flying into or through Great Britain on their way south from their breeding grounds in 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. Thus, currently the risk of ND entry into Great Britain through wild birds is approaching its annual maximum and depends on the levels of ND in Poland and Germany, where the epidemiological situation appears to be improving (with no new poultry or non-poultry outbreaks reported in Germany since our last assessment and only one (poultry) outbreak in Poland). Birds are unlikely to fly into Great Britain from Hungary where ND has emerged this month. Any westward spread of ND into western Germany and the Netherlands could provide an early indication of increased risk to Great Britain. Should outbreaks occur in those areas, cases in Great Britain could follow shortly afterwards.

Conclusion

Newcastle disease (ND) virus continues to spread among poultry and non-poultry birds in Europe. The two poultry outbreaks reported in Hungary on 9 September 2026 are reported to be the country's first confirmed ND outbreaks in decades.

Large numbers of migratory birds are currently flying into or through Great Britain from Scandinavia and northern Europe. However, the risk of ND introduction into poultry in Great Britain remains **Low**. This reflects the improving epidemiological situation in Germany and Poland since our last assessment, with no new outbreaks reported in Germany and only one poultry outbreak reported in Poland. It also reflects the regionalisation in place to prevent introduction of ND via trade.

The main routes by which ND could be introduced into Great Britain are wild birds, illegal trade and fomites. The impact of any introduction may be increased by sub-optimal vaccination practices. There is a background ND risk to poultry from feral pigeons as potential reservoirs of the virus. Pigeon paramyxovirus type 1 (PPMV-1), a pigeon-adapted variant of APMV-1, is endemic in pigeon populations in Great Britain and Europe ([Abdulrasol et al., 2025](#)). Importantly, the association of wild birds with APMV-1 infection remains poorly understood and so, with the exception of pigeons and other columbids that maintain endemic PPMV-1 cycles, the risk of ND introduction associated with different wild bird species and migratory pathways is difficult to quantify.

It is recommended that poultry keepers consider vaccinating their flocks and practice [strict 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.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

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