



NDCC Newcastle Disease Update 1 of 2026

1. New outbreak of Newcastle disease (ND) confirmed in Spain

- The Spanish authorities have confirmed an outbreak of Newcastle Disease on 9th March 2026.
 - The outbreak occurred a flock of laying hens in the municipality of Terrateig, in the province of Valencia.
 - This is the sixth outbreak of ND to be confirmed in Spain during this season. The farm is located within the 10km radius of previously notified outbreaks in December 2025, for which all measures had been lifted in February 2026. Spanish authorities are applying strict control measures as per Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687.
- The farm in question had been properly vaccinated against the disease, with 4 doses of vaccine having been correctly applied to the birds, which did not prevent the introduction of the virus to one of the sheds.
- The origin of the infection is currently being investigated.

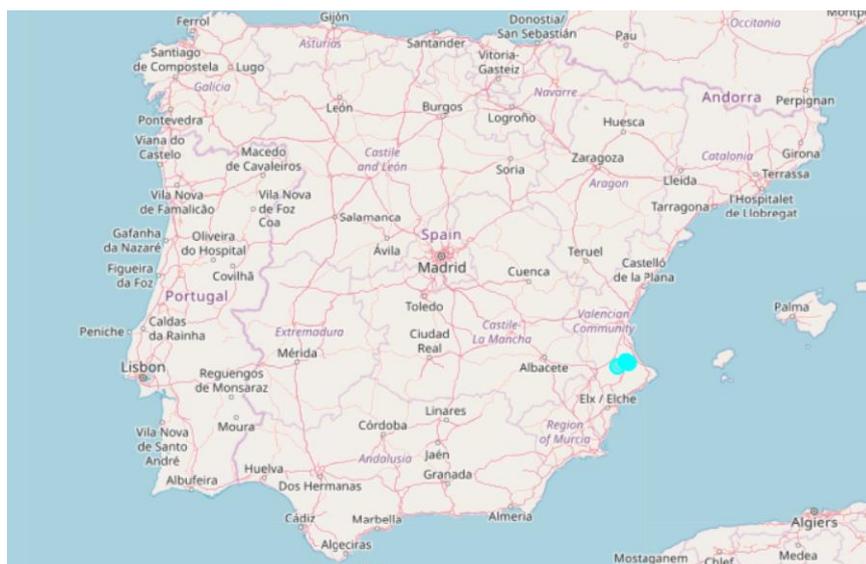


Figure 1: Location of current Newcastle Disease Outbreaks in Spain
(Map Source: [Search outbreaks - TRACES NT](#))

2. Current European Newcastle Disease situation

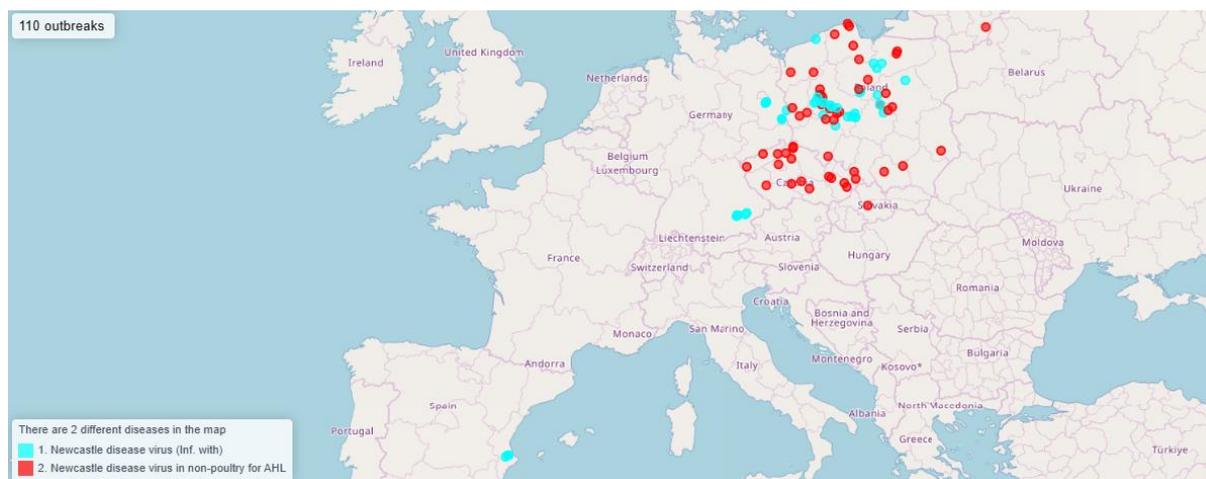


Figure 2: Newcastle Disease situation in Europe since the beginning of 2026

(Map Source [Search outbreaks - TRACES NT](#))

- As seen in the above map, ND has been reported from Poland and Lithuania in the north down to Spain in the south.
- The map shows a large number of poultry outbreaks in Poland and into Germany in addition to the outbreak in Spain.
- The remaining cases are reported in 'non-poultry for AHL' (Animal Health Law) but show the current disease pressure in central and eastern Europe.

3. Information on Newcastle disease

- Newcastle Disease (ND) is an infection of poultry caused by the Newcastle disease virus (NDV), however it may affect other captive birds including pet, zoo and wild birds.
- The disease has a rapid onset and is very contagious with up to 100% morbidity if a susceptible flock is infected
- Clinical signs depend on the virulence of the strain, with highly virulent strains leading to severe respiratory, gastrointestinal and neurological clinical signs. Egg drop is also seen and mortality can reach 100% on extreme cases. Milder strains can be asymptomatic or cause milder signs. However, the strains have the ability to evolve into highly virulent strains.
- The clinical picture for ND is similar for that of Avian Influenza, so laboratory testing is vital to confirm diagnosis.
- ND is usually transmitted either by direct contact with diseased or carrier birds or through environmental contamination from faeces or respiratory droplets. Contaminated fomites can also play a role in transmission.

- ND can survive in the environment for several weeks, especially in cool weather.
- Occasional zoonotic transfer to humans has been seen in those after large exposure to the virus leading to conjunctivitis and / or pneumonia.

Prophylactic vaccination is recommended for commercial poultry, though, as seen in Spain, no vaccine is 100% effective. Effective biosecurity practices are vital to prevent disease incursions into a naïve flock

4. What this means for Ireland

- Ireland is currently free from ND, with the last known case seen in 1997.
- Strict rules are in place to prevent the entry of ND into Ireland. However, as with Avian Influenza the virus can be brought in by wild birds, which we cannot control.
- Stringent measures are activated in the event of an outbreak. Control measures are underpinned by European legislation.

Biosecurity and vaccination are the best defence against a potential Newcastle Disease incursion