



NDCC Newcastle Disease Update 2 of 2026

1. Current Newcastle Disease situation in Europe

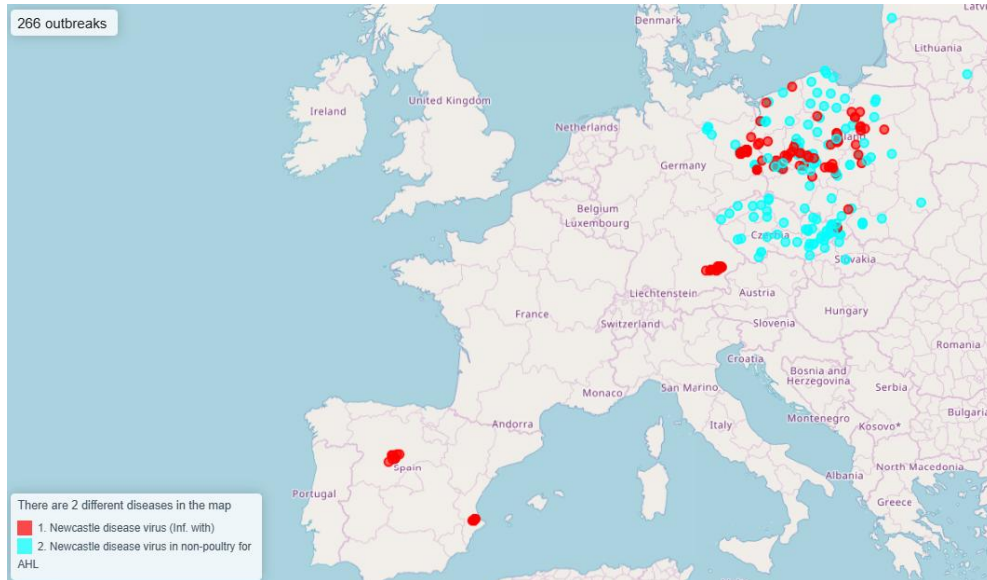


Figure 1: Newcastle Disease situation in Europe since the beginning of 2026 (Map Source [TRACES NT](#))

- Newcastle Disease (ND) has been reported in 2026 in north and eastern Europe and in Spain in the south. The number of cases reported: 266 in the first half of the year, is high compared to previous years:

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (Jan-June)
No. of cases reported	7	9	37	211	266

- The map shows **128 poultry outbreaks** (marked in red) in Poland, Germany and Spain, as well as **138 cases** (marked in blue) reported in **non-poultry species and backyard flocks** that show the current disease pressure in eastern Europe.
- Outbreaks have occurred in **vaccinated and unvaccinated flocks**.
- The virus strain isolated is **AMV-1 Genotype VII.1.1**. Genetic studies differentiate the Spanish isolates from the samples from Poland and Germany.
 - Poland:** 55 outbreaks in poultry - 69 in non-poultry/backyard flocks. First cases started in 2023. Measures: Compulsory ND vaccination for chickens/hens and turkeys, mandatory biosecurity measures and official biosecurity inspections in place to check compliance, and laboratory testing to assess the effectiveness of the vaccination programme.
 - Germany:** 55 outbreaks poultry - 15 non-poultry/backyard flocks. 2 areas affected: Bavaria and Brandenburg. Observed in unvaccinated flocks (with mortality up to 100%) and vaccinated flock with milder symptoms. Vaccination was compulsory in chicken and turkey farms, and it has been extended now to all holdings. Suspected introduction and spread via contaminated vehicles, personnel and equipment.
 - Spain:** 18 outbreaks reported in poultry. The first outbreaks were detected in the east (Valencia region end of 2025) in unvaccinated farms; cases continued in 2026

also in vaccinated flocks. In June and July 2026 new outbreaks have been reported in the Castille and Leon region (centre). Linked to wild bird origin.

2. Information on Newcastle disease

- Newcastle Disease (ND) is caused by the Newcastle disease virus (NDV), affecting poultry and other 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 of the virus, bird species and age (young birds most susceptible). Highly virulent strains lead 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 food, water, equipment and clothing can also play a role in transmission.
- ND can survive in the environment for several weeks, especially in cool weather.
- Occasionally it can infect humans (minor zoonosis) after large exposure to the virus leading to conjunctivitis and/or influenza-like symptoms.
- **Prophylactic vaccination is recommended for commercial poultry. No vaccine is 100% effective preventing infection, but they reduce morbidity, mortality, and viral shedding. Reviewing vaccination protocols (strain used, booster frequency) can increase protection against the disease.**
- **Strict biosecurity practices are vital to prevent disease incursions into a naïve flock from wild birds or contaminated material.**

3. 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

National Disease Control Centre
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