



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 27/26

Bluetongue Virus (BTV) Clinical Reporting System Launch in England Restriction Zone

Date issued: 11 September 2026

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OV) and Private Veterinary Surgeons (PVSs) in Great Britain (GB) of the introduction of an online clinical reporting system for bluetongue virus (BTV) in England's Restricted Zone (RZ).

Background

2. **From Friday 11th September 2026**, APHA will introduce an online digital reporting system for BTV within **England's Restricted Zone (RZ)**. This forms part of the ongoing transition to a more proportionate, risk-based approach to BTV and is intended to simplify disease reporting for livestock keepers and their private veterinary surgeons (PVS).
3. **Bluetongue remains a notifiable disease** and anyone suspecting bluetongue is legally obliged to report it immediately to APHA.

England: Private Veterinary Surgeons (PVS) can use the online reporting system as described below, or alternatively call 03000 200 301

Wales: 03003 038 268

Scotland: Contact your local Field Services Office

Action

4. In England, if a PVS has clinically examined animals on a holding and is confident that the observed clinical signs are consistent with bluetongue virus (BTV), they

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may use the online reporting service on GOV.UK to submit a disease report:

[Bluetongue: how to spot and report it - GOV.UK](#)

5. The private veterinary surgeon (PVS) must complete an online reporting form and declare that foot and mouth disease (FMD) or other notifiable disease are not suspected on the holding.
6. Certain fields are mandatory. Where information entered indicates that another notifiable disease may be suspected, the user will be directed to contact APHA immediately on 03000 200 301 and not proceed with online submission.
7. Upon submission, the report will be recorded and reviewed. A submission reference number will be issued.
8. Where concerns are identified following submission of the report, the PVS will receive a follow-up call from APHA to discuss the case.
9. Following submission of the report, the PVS and keeper will receive an email confirming disease on the premises based on the clinical symptoms observed, and submitted by the PVS, using the provided email addresses and providing information for the keeper regarding disease control and responsibilities.
10. Submission of a report through the online reporting service will not routinely result in an APHA visit, disease control restrictions or diagnostic testing being undertaken.
11. If the PVS is uncertain whether the clinical signs are compatible with BTV or not they must call APHA to discuss.
- 12. If any other notifiable disease is suspected, APHA must be contacted immediately using the relevant telephone number above.**
- 13. OV's are encouraged to share the information in this briefing note with colleagues.**

Further information

14. If the clinical picture changes and/or morbidity rapidly increases, which could suggest another notifiable disease, the keeper/PVS must call APHA on the number above.
15. This reporting system must only be used by a PVS following a clinical examination of livestock on the farm. It must not be completed or submitted by livestock keepers.
16. This reporting route must not be used for animals located at livestock markets, slaughterhouses, artificial breeding centres or premises operated by private post-

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mortem examination providers. Suspicions of disease in these circumstances should be reported through the normal APHA reporting channels.

17. The online reporting service is only available for holdings located within England's Bluetongue Restricted Zone.
18. Suspicion of BTV in any BTV susceptible animals can be reported through this channel.
19. Keepers who choose not to engage a PVS must report any suspicion of BTV directly to APHA by calling the number provided above.
20. Submission of an online report does not prevent further diagnostic testing. Where a PVS or keeper wishes to obtain samples for testing, this may be arranged privately following submission of the online report or through the existing APHA sampling route by contacting APHA and obtaining an ERZ number where APHA consider this necessary.
21. When completing the online form, the PVS must confirm they have sufficient knowledge of BTV, which include practical clinical experience of the disease or completing training such as the AHDB webinar: [Bluetongue virus webinars | AHDB](#)
22. The following information should be available to complete the online reporting form:
 - RCVS number (this link will be provided to look this up: [Find a Vet | Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons](#))
 - CPH number and holding address
 - Keepers name and contact details
 - Species and numbers on the holding
 - Species and numbers affected
 - Date signs first observed
 - Clinical signs observed
23. If a report is submitted in error, or information requires correction, the PVS should contact APHA using the number above and quote the submission number provided.
24. If one or more animals have died suddenly and anthrax is suspected, APHA must be contacted immediately by telephone.
25. All cattle abortions and premature calvings must continue to be reported to APHA by telephone. This is a statutory requirement and supports surveillance activities necessary to maintain the United Kingdom's official brucellosis-free status.
26. Animal keepers must continue to comply with England RZ controls and any licensing requirements in place at the time the animals are proposed to be moved.

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Submission of a clinical online report does not constitute a movement licence or authorisation.

27. The animal keeper has a duty of care for their animals, providing symptomatic treatment and veterinary care as required.

28. For the latest information on BTV, visit: [Bluetongue: latest situation - GOV.UK](#)

Contacts

Telephone contacts for APHA:

England: 03000 200 301

Wales: 03003 038 268

Scotland: Contact your local Field Services Office