



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Bluetongue

## Stay Vigilant!

If you suspect bluetongue in your animals, you must report it to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Bluetongue is a viral disease spread by biting midges which affects ruminants such as cattle, sheep, deer and goats and camelids like alpacas and llamas. There are many strains of bluetongue. Cases of serotype 3 (BTV-3) were identified in England in November 2023 and the virus can also be spread through germinal products (semen, ova, and embryos) as well as transmitted maternally from mother to unborn offspring.

Clinical signs when present, can include: fever, crusting and ulcers around the muzzle area, swollen head, salivating and lameness. You may also see other signs including reduced milk yield, abortions and malaise.

Bluetongue does not affect people or food safety.

There are 3 unauthorised bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) vaccines available to use in England, subject to licence.

Species  
affected

Alpacas

Llamas

Deer

Goats

Sheep

Cattle

### England

03000 200 301

### Wales

03003 038 268

### Scotland

Ayr: 03000 600703

Galashiels: 03000 600711

Perth: 03000 600704

Inverness: 03000 600709

Inverurie: 03000 600708

To find out more about  
bluetongue virus and the  
latest situation visit  
[www.gov.uk/bluetongue](http://www.gov.uk/bluetongue)  
or follow the QR code

