

The IFS analysis is clear: only Labour will give schools the resources they need to deliver a world-class education – Angela Rayner

Angela

Rayner, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary, commenting on the Institute of Fiscal Studies

analysis of the main political parties' proposals on school spending in England, said:

"There

is now no doubt about what Tory plans mean for education – our schools will see their budgets cut.

"And head

teachers have warned us what the consequences will be for parents and pupils: fewer teachers, larger classes, a narrower curriculum, or even a shorter school week.

"The IFS

analysis is clear: only Labour will give schools the resources they need to deliver a world-class education for the many, not just the few."

News story: Flypor 4% w/v Pour-on Solution – Product defect recall alert

Product defect recall alert for Flypor 4% w/v Pour-on Solution (Vm 00879/4008) by Elanco Europe Ltd.

We wish to make wholesalers, veterinary surgeons, pharmacists and SQPs aware that Elanco Europe Ltd has issued a recall for Flypor 4% w/v Pour-on Solution (Vm 00879/4008).

This issue impacts the following batch that has been placed on the UK market:

- Batch No: C681480
- Expiry Date: 10/2018

Some units in this batch have been reported to be leaking a small amount of product from around the cap due to the induction heat seals in some packs not being completely sealed to the bottle.

If you have any queries, please contact Elanco:

Tel: +44 (0)1256 353131 (Option 1) Email: ELANCOVETS@elanco.com

News story: VMD web services will be unavailable from 27 to 31 May

The following online application services will be unavailable:

[Special Import Certificates](#)

[Special Treatment Certificates](#)

You should obtain an import certificate in advance if you think you will need to import/use an imported medicine during this period.

In urgent cases you may purchase and use an imported veterinary medicine prior to obtaining a certificate from the VMD. This is a special dispensation which only applies to the VMD online system during this maintenance period.

You should obtain an import certificate retrospectively as soon as possible.

[Research Import Certificates](#)

[Export Certificates](#)

[Microchip Adverse Event Reporting](#)

[Animal Adverse Reaction Reporting](#)

[Human Adverse Reaction Reporting](#)

The following online information services will be unavailable:

[Product Information Database](#)

The systems should be operational again on Wednesday 31 May. The VMD apologises for any inconvenience.

News story: Bluetongue: UK farmers urged to be vigilant as cattle test positive in northern France

Farmers are being urged to be vigilant for signs of Bluetongue virus (BTV) and consider vaccinating their livestock after BTV-8 was detected in cattle in a previously disease-free area of northern France.

[Bluetongue virus](#) is transmitted by midges and can infect all ruminants, particularly sheep and cattle. It can reduce milk yield, cause sickness, reduce reproductive performance or, in the most severe cases, cause death in adult animals.

It does not affect people, and meat and milk from infected animals are safe to eat and drink.

Vaccination is the best way to protect livestock and a safe and effective vaccine is available in Great Britain. Livestock keepers—particularly those on the Kent and Sussex coastline—should discuss with their vet if vaccination is an option which would benefit their business.

The holding where the virus was detected in northern France is less than 150km from the south coast of England. Farmers across the south of England in particular should look out for clinical signs of disease, including mouth ulcers; drooling; swelling of the mouth, head and neck; fever; lameness and breathing problems. Any suspicion of disease must be reported immediately to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 03000 200 301.

The [latest expert assessment, published today by Defra](#), is that the risk of an outbreak of Bluetongue virus in the UK is currently low, but will change as we move into summer. The risk of incursion via infected midges later in the summer depends on the level of disease on the continent, proximity to the UK, the vaccination status of animals in the UK and weather conditions.

UK Chief Veterinary Officer Nigel Gibbens said:

Bluetongue does not pose a threat to human health or food safety, but can have a negative impact on farm incomes, for example by causing reduced milk yield in cows and infertility in sheep.

We have robust disease surveillance procedures and continue to carefully monitor the situation in France, where Bluetongue disease control measures are in place.

Our latest assessment shows the risk of outbreak in the UK is currently low, but the detection of the virus in northern France is a timely reminder for farmers to remain vigilant for disease and report any suspicions to the Animal and Plant Health Agency. I

would also encourage farmers to talk to their vet to consider if vaccination would benefit their business.

More information about Bluetongue—including veterinary advice and information on the vaccine—is available from the [Joint campaign Against Bluetongue \(JAB\)](#).

Regular risk assessments will be published on GOV.UK and all disease control measures are kept under review based on the latest scientific evidence and veterinary advice.

Read the [latest situation assessment of Bluetongue virus \(BTV-8\) in France](#).

Tory spending plans will hit public services and the economy – John McDonnell

John McDonnell, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, responding to the IFS manifesto analysis, said:

"The IFS assessment of the Conservatives is clear: their plans would damage our economy and public services with five more years of damaging austerity.

"They also confirm that the Tories have not specified any additional funding for the NHS, meaning a continued crisis in our health service if they are re-elected next month. The Tories plans on schools will mean continuing to sell away our future, with continued real terms cuts to per pupil spending.

"Today has confirmed that only a Labour Government would give our NHS and schools the essential funding they need, and that our increase in infrastructure investment would boost GDP and tax receipts. The IFS confirms that Labour are on target to meet our manifesto commitments in regards to our Fiscal Credibility Rule, to balance the budget on day to day spending in the coming parliament and have debt falling as a share of GDP as we have committed.

"We believe the IFS has underestimated the revenue raising effectiveness of some of the tax changes we would make, but we recognise the potential for uncertainty which is why we have allowed headroom in our plans.

"The only numbers we saw in the Tory manifesto were the page numbers. But what has become clear today is the choice at this election – continued austerity and falling living standards under the Tories, or higher wages and increased investment in our public services and infrastructure under Labour."