

Guidelines for late breaker abstract submission

The ESCAIDE 2026 call for late breaker abstract is open from 9 to 23 September (23:59 CEST). ESCAIDE welcomes abstracts in all areas applied to infectious disease and public health. These areas include epidemiology, microbiology, virology, immunology, social sciences, science communication, the application of tools and methods to support infectious disease interventions and more. We encourage submissions that inform public health actions, introduce new ideas, and bring new understandings to the field.

Late breaker abstract eligibility criteria

Late breaker abstracts may be eligible for both oral and poster presentations. Abstracts initially submitted for the regular programme and rejected are ineligible for late breaker consideration, unless the rejection was due to the absence of critical data at the time of submission. To be eligible, the abstract must fulfil all the following criteria:

1. Report on acute urgent public health problems OR contain novel, surprising findings.
2. Report data or information that was unavailable before the deadline for submission in the general call for abstracts for ESCAIDE (18 May 2026).
3. Has not been published before.

Abstracts should be submitted in the form of text via the abstract management platform (hosted by Ex Ordo). The link to the platform will be available on the ESCAIDE website between 9-23 September 2026.

General information

Abstract ID number: After successful submission, a confirmation email will be sent to all co-authors from notifications@exordo.com. Please add this address to the list of safe senders or check your spam and quarantined emails if you do not receive this email within the hour. This email will include the abstract reference number, which should be included in all correspondence related to the abstract.

Changes to submitted abstracts: Corrections to abstracts can be made by 23 September 2026 (23:59 CEST), directly in the abstract management platform. After this deadline, no further changes will be accepted. Please ensure that your abstracts are marked as "Submitted" by this deadline, as any abstracts marked as "Pending" or "Withdrawn" will not be reviewed. Note: Once you complete your abstract and click "Done/ Save submission", the abstract is automatically submitted, however edits to the abstract can still be done until the above-mentioned deadline.

Responsibility of submitted content: The corresponding author is responsible for ensuring the accuracy and quality of the abstract. If the abstract is accepted, any errors in spelling, grammar, or scientific content will be reproduced exactly as submitted.

Review and selection of abstracts: The review process of late breakers is done in two steps carried out by the ESCAIDE Scientific Committee. Firstly, they assess the abstract's eligibility for late breaker consideration, as outlined in the "Eligibility" section above. Secondly, the submitted abstracts undergo review based on the process and criteria applied to standard abstracts. For a detailed understanding of the abstract selection process and review criteria, please refer to the dedicated [Guidelines for abstract selection and review](#).

Communication of results: Notifications will be emailed to the corresponding author by 14 October 2026 and will also be shown in your profile in the abstract management platform. Accepted abstracts will be assigned to respective sessions in the programme. Presenters are responsible for checking the date and time of their presentation on the programme on the ESCAIDE website and ensure they register for the conference.

Registrations: If an abstract is accepted, presenting authors of late breaker abstracts will receive registration instructions for the conference, including a registration code that will enable them to register for in-person attendance. Abstracts will be withdrawn if the presenter fails to register for ESCAIDE or doesn't assign a registered substitute presenter by **27 October 2026**.

Submission of e-poster or PowerPoint: Presenters of accepted abstracts will be asked to submit an e-poster (for poster presentations) or PowerPoint slides (for oral presentations), through the abstract management platform. Submissions will open on 14 October and close on 1 November (for e-posters) and 15 November (for PowerPoint slides). [Guidelines for presenters and templates for e-posters](#) are already available on the ESCAIDE website.

Abstract submission form

The ESCAIDE 2026 abstract management platform is hosted by Ex Ordo. More information on how to submit an abstract is available once you log in to the platform, as well as here: [Submitting an abstract/paper](#). Please note that if one user has dual roles, author and reviewer, both will be shown in the same profile.

Create an account or Login: If you are new to the abstract management platform, you will have to create an account, otherwise, if you have logged into the platform previously (as author or reviewer in the standard call for abstracts), just use the Login function.

The email address and password you choose will be used to log in to the abstract management platform to create, edit, and submit abstracts, as well as see the review of your abstract, final decision and upload final presentations (PowerPoint slides for accepted oral presentations or PDF posters for accepted poster presentations). If you already had abstracts submitted in the standard call for abstracts, or if you have been a reviewer, you will also be able to see these in your profile. Please ensure that you use the same email address for your account on the platform as for your registration to the conference.

Topics: Although the platform allows you to select more than one topic, please tag each abstract with **only one Disease Group** and **only one Public Health Function** that best reflect its content. These selections are important, as they will be used to assign the abstract in the review process.

Disease Groups topics	Public Health Function topics
• Antimicrobial resistance • Food- and waterborne diseases and zoonotic diseases • General or other disease groups • Healthcare-associated infections • Respiratory viruses • Sexually transmitted diseases and Blood-borne viruses • Tuberculosis • Vaccine preventable diseases and immunisation • Vector-borne diseases	• Burden of infectious diseases • Evidence to policy and practice • Field epidemiology (e.g. outbreak investigations) • General public health science • Microbiology • Migrant and refugee health • Novel methods (e.g. digital disease detection, e-Health, Artificial Intelligence) • One Health • Preparedness • Prevention • Quantitative methods (e.g. mathematical modelling, biostatistics, health economic analysis) • Science and Public Health Communication • Social and behavioural sciences • Surveillance

Title: Choose a clear and informative title that reflects the main content of your abstract. Avoid using acronyms, as they may not be familiar to all readers. Do not write the title in all capital letters or use unnecessary capitalisation.

Authors: The corresponding author will by default be added as the presenting author, but this can be changed if it is not the case. The authors will be listed in the order you enter them. If your abstract has multiple co-authors, please fill in all the required fields for each author. The presenting author of an accepted abstract must register for and attend the conference to ensure the abstract is presented. Please note that the presenter's email address must be the same one that will be used when registering for the conference.

Affiliations: When listing affiliations for authors, please only include the primary organisation they are affiliated with. To add affiliations, please use the format 'Full organisation name (Abbreviation)'. For example: 'European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)'. The country will be added in another field, so you do not need to repeat it here.

If an author has more than one affiliation, please use the same format mentioned above and **separate affiliations by semicolons** (do not use any other punctuation).

Consortium, network or group: If the abstract is co-authored by a consortium, network or group, please do not list all the members. Instead, add the name of the consortium, network or group in the field "consortium co-authoring", under the respective author.

Keywords: Please include four to six key words separated by semicolons; use terms listed in the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) from the Index Medicus (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/>). Keywords should reflect core concepts of the abstract, including methods, results, and key findings, not just general topics. Select terms that complement, rather than duplicate, the title.

Abstract text: The total text should **not exceed 300 words** (excluding the title). Abstracts must be written in English, using UK English spelling. Please follow the structure of **Background, Methods, Results and Conclusions**, but do not include these headings in the text. We encourage you to refer to the guiding questions provided in the [Guidelines for abstract review and selection](#), as reviewers will use the same criteria when assessing your submission.

Eligibility for review: In order to be eligible as a late breaker abstract, the abstract must report data or information that was only available after the submission deadline of the standard call for abstracts (18 May 2026). Please specify the exact dates of data collection within the Title, Background, or Methods, to ensure reviewers are able to determine the abstract's eligibility. Abstracts in which this information is not clearly indicated may be excluded from review.

Disclosure of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools: Authors must be transparent about any use of AI in the research or in drafting the abstract. If AI tools were used, please specify which tool and its purpose (e.g. language improvement, content generation, code writing, data processing) in the designated section of the submission form. The Scientific Committee reserves the right to exclude abstracts based solely on research conducted or generated by AI tools. Please note that AI tools cannot be listed as authors, as authorship requires accountability for the submitted work. All listed authors must review, edit, and assume full responsibility for the content of the abstract.

Declaration of originality: ESCAIDE abstracts should present original work that is recent and not yet in the public domain or presented at other conferences. Although abstracts based on previously published or multiple-conference submissions are discouraged, exceptions may be made if the work carries significant public health relevance. The decision to accept such abstracts is left at the discretion of the reviewers and the Scientific Committee, with priority given to original content of high public health importance. If the abstract includes

material that has already been published or presented, this must be clearly disclosed in the designated section of the submission form, along with relevant links, if available.

Multi-country investigation/study: Please indicate if the abstract submitted is based on work involving at least two countries (e.g. cross-border investigation of an alert or an outbreak). Tick the box even if the abstract describes the background, methods, results and conclusions for only one of the countries involved.

Preferred presentation method: The final presentation format is determined by the review process and the Scientific Committee's decision, but you may indicate your preferred format:

- *Oral presentation:* If your abstract is accepted for an oral presentation, you will have the opportunity to present your work during a Fireside session, either on-site or remotely.
- *Poster presentation:* If your abstract is accepted for a poster presentation, your abstract will be considered for a presentation in a Poster Tour, and your poster will be displayed on e-poster terminals in the conference venue (no printed posters are required). Poster presentations can only be delivered in-person, as **remote poster presentations are not possible**.

PowerPoint slides for oral presentations and PDF posters are to be uploaded in the abstract management platform as well. More information is provided in the [Guidelines for oral and poster presentations](#) available on our website.

Considerations on diversity, equity and inclusion

Sex and gender: ESCAIDE recommends following the '[Sex and Gender Equity in Research - SAGER – guidelines](#)' and considering whether sex and/or gender play a role in your study design, data collection, analysis and reporting. Use the terms sex (biological attribute) and gender (shaped by social and cultural circumstances) carefully to avoid confusing them. If applicable, during your research ensure that data is disaggregated by sex and gender and analyse and discuss any relevant differences.

Diversity in research: We encourage reflecting on the inclusiveness of your research approach and how diversity across disciplines, geography, culture and ethnicity, may affect your findings and interpretations. These aspects may not apply to every study, but we invite you to consider them where relevant, including when planning future studies.

Balance of presentations: To support a wide range of voices at ESCAIDE, we encourage research groups submitting more than one abstract to nominate different authors as presenters. This includes presenters that will already be presenting an abstract accepted in the standard call for abstracts. This may be considered by the Scientific Committee when deciding whether to accept the abstract, particularly if there are repeated presenters. This helps to create a balanced programme, reduce repetition, and give more researchers the opportunity to present their work.

Important dates

Call for late breakers: 9-23 September

Late breakers review period: 25 September-8 October

Communication of late breaker results to authors: by 14 October

Registration for the conference of late breaker presenters: by 27 October

Submission of late breaker e-posters (for poster presentations): 14 October-1 November

Submission of PowerPoint slides (for oral presentations): 14 October-15 November

ESCAIDE 2026: 18-20 November

Contact details

You can find all information about the conference on our website: www.escaide.eu. For any questions you might have, please contact the ESCAIDE organisers at escaide.conference@ecdc.europa.eu.