n8n production webhook not working: troubleshooting checklist

unboxth.xyz | Checked against docs.n8n.io and github.com/n8n-io/n8n on 2026-11-02. Work top to bottom; tick each box. Pair with n8n-webhook-health-check.json.

1. Publish the workflow (and republish after edits)

- ☐ Production URLs register only when you publish. The test URL listens for 120 seconds after 'Listen for test event'.
- ☐ Production runs the published version, not your latest draft. 'Published, has changes' means your edits aren't live yet.
- ☐ 'Published, partial' or 'Failed to publish': hover the button to see which trigger failed, then publish again.
- ☐ Self-hosted and still 404 after publishing? Unpublish, publish again; if it persists, restart n8n (see GitHub issue #34038 for an API-activation case).

2. Call /webhook/, not /webhook-test/

- ☐ Test: https://HOST/webhook-test/PATH. Production: https://HOST/webhook/PATH (defaults; N8N_ENDPOINT_WEBHOOK and N8N_ENDPOINT_WEBHOOK_TEST change them).
- ☐ The Test/Production toggle in the node only changes which URL is displayed. Copy the Production one into the sender.
- ☐ Production calls never appear on the canvas. Look in the workflow's Executions tab.

3. Read the 404 body

- ☐ 'The requested webhook "POST path" is not registered.' + hint 'The workflow must be active...' = nothing registered at that path/method in production.
- ☐ 'This webhook is not registered for GET requests. Did you mean to make a POST request?' = method mismatch.
- ☐ An HTML page or 'Cannot POST /webhook/...' instead of n8n's JSON = something other than n8n's webhook handler answered. Check your proxy routing.

4. HTTP method matches

- ☐ One method per Webhook node by default. Settings > Allow Multiple HTTP Methods to accept several (one output per method).
- ☐ Browsers and link previews send GET; many SaaS senders POST. Match the node to what the sender actually sends.

5. Reverse proxy: N8N_WEBHOOK_URL

- ☐ Without it, n8n builds URLs from N8N_PROTOCOL + N8N_HOST + N8N_PORT (defaults http, localhost, 5678).
- ☐ Set N8N_WEBHOOK_URL=https://n8n.example.com/ and restart. WEBHOOK_URL is the older name: still works, deprecated from n8n 2.35.0 per the endpoints reference (queue-mode page says N8N_WEBHOOK_URL exists from 2.30.0; on older versions use WEBHOOK_URL).
- ☐ Re-copy the Production URL after restart; senders registered with the old URL keep the old one.

6. Reverse proxy: N8N_PROXY_HOPS + forwarded headers

- ☐ Set N8N_PROXY_HOPS to the number of proxies in front of n8n (default 0; docs example uses 1).
- ☐ On the last proxy, pass X-Forwarded-For, X-Forwarded-Host, X-Forwarded-Proto.
- ☐ IP allowlist rejecting allowed IPs (403) behind a proxy is the classic symptom of a wrong N8N_PROXY_HOPS.

7. Respond to Webhook wiring

- ☐ Webhook node Respond must be 'Using Respond to Webhook node' for the Respond node to control the reply.
- ☐ Workflow ends without reaching the Respond node: standard 200 message. Error before it: 500. A second Respond node is ignored.
- ☐ It responds once, with the first item. Use Aggregate first if you need all items.
- ☐ n8n Cloud: no response within 100 seconds = Cloudflare 524. Respond early, then poll a second webhook.

8. Path conflicts

- ☐ Only one webhook per path + method across the instance. n8n tells you the path and method are already in use.
- ☐ Fix: unpublish the other workflow, or change path or method.

9. Queue mode

- ☐ EXECUTIONS_MODE=queue means workers run production executions. No workers running = webhook received, nothing executes. (Settings > Workers lists them on Enterprise plans only; otherwise check worker containers and logs.)
- ☐ Webhook processors (n8n webhook) need EXECUTIONS_MODE=queue and Redis. Route /webhook/* and /webhook-waiting/* to them; /webhook-test/* must go to the main process.
- ☐ N8N_DISABLE_PRODUCTION_MAIN_PROCESS=true stops the main process taking production webhooks. Don't add main to the webhook pool then.
- ☐ Large Respond to Webhook payloads in queue mode: N8N_WEBHOOK_RESPONSE_RELAY_SIZE_MAX (default 64 MiB).

10. Payload size and timezone

- ☐ Max payload 16 MiB by default (N8N_PAYLOAD_SIZE_MAX, restart to apply).
- ☐ Schedules firing at odd hours? Self-hosted default timezone is America/New_York; set GENERIC_TIMEZONE (e.g. America/Toronto, Australia/Sydney).

Sources: docs.n8n.io Webhook node, Webhook common issues, Workflow development, Save and publish workflows, Configure webhook URLs with reverse proxy, Endpoints and Deployment env var references, Enable queue mode, Respond to Webhook, Set the timezone; n8n source webhook-not-found.error.ts. General information, not professional advice; n8n changes often, so check the docs for your version.