



FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is foot and mouth disease?

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a severe, highly contagious viral disease of livestock that has a significant economic impact. The disease affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other cloven-hoofed ruminants. The virus is found in all body fluids, such as saliva, urine, faeces, milk and in the air that diseased animals expel.

- Animals get this disease when eating or breathing in the virus from these body fluids.
- People can also spread the virus through contaminated clothing, shoes, hands and tyres.



2. What are the signs?

- Blisters and sores in the mouth (gums, lips and tongue) are raw and painful, making it difficult for the animal to eat, and often cause drooling.
- Blisters and sores between the toes and where the hooves join the skin, can cause the animals to limp and not want to walk around.
- Cows can develop sores on their teats. This results in a sudden drop in milk production.



3. Why is FMD important?

- Farmers lose money because sick animals lose weight, do not grow and produce less milk. Young calves may die.
- A large amount of money is spent on controlling and containing the disease.
- Countries that do not have the disease will not buy animals, meat or meat products from South Africa when the disease spreads.

4. What to do in suspected cases?

- If any signs of foot and mouth disease are seen, immediately call your nearest State Veterinarian.
- FMD diseased or suspected animals are prohibited to be admitted in an abattoir or slaughtered.
- If FMD is suspected on post-mortem examination, the carcass and viscera need to be handled as prescribed by the State Veterinarian.
- The room and all the equipment need to be disinfected with acetic acid to prevent the spread of the virus in the abattoir.



5. How to report foot and mouth disease?

For more information and to report suspected cases of foot and mouth disease, please contact your nearest Western Cape Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian Office, located throughout the Western Cape Province. See contact details below:

No.	District	State Veterinarian	Contact Number	Email
1	Beaufort West	Dr Jaco Pienaar	023 414 2154	JacoP@elsenburg.com
2	Boland - Elsenburg office	Dr Gary Buhrmann Dr Vivien Malan	021 808 5253 021 808 5026	GaryB@elsenburg.com VivienM@elsenburg.com SVBoland@elsenburg.com
3	George	Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg	044 803 3771	LeanaJvR@elsenburg.com SVGeorge@elsenburg.com
4	Malmesbury	Dr Michael Swart	022 433 8910	Michael.Swart@westerncape.gov.za
5	Oudtshoorn	Dr Cathy Fox	044 203 9443/5	Cathy.Fox@westerncape.gov.za
6	Swellendam	Dr Christi Kloppers	028 425 4850	ChristiK@elsenburg.com BidwellG@elsenburg.com
7	Vredendal	Dr Chanel Lombard	027 201 3510	ChanelL@elsenburg.com
8	Worcester	Dr Christi Kloppers	021 808 5059	ChristiK@elsenburg.com

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