

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE



The Basics

What is FMD? It is a highly contagious virus that affects animals with cloven-hoofed (split hooves) like cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo and pigs. It causes painful sores in the mouth and on the feet. In South Africa, the SAT strains occur, which are mostly found in cattle.

FMD Symptoms

Symptoms can take up to 14 days to show

- Blisters or sores in the mouth or on the feet
- Lameness or limping
- Loss of appetite
- Drooling or lots of saliva

Incubation Period:

- An infected animal will become sick and show signs of the disease within three days to a maximum of 14 days (incubation period).
- The animal will usually recover within 7-14 days as it will develop its own immunity against the disease.

How Does FMD Spread?

- Between animals
- On people's clothes, hands, and boots
- Through vehicles and equipment
- Through the air

⚠ FMD can live in a person's throat (airway) up to 3 days, even if you feel fine. You could pass it to your animals just by breathing near them.

Survival Time of the FMD Virus

The FMD virus survives at pH - 7 to 8,5

⚠ which means detergents are ineffective.

- 20 weeks on Hay
- 4 weeks on cow's hair
- 14 days in dry faeces
- 39 days in urine
- 3 days in summer soil
- 28 days in autumn soil



Suspected case on your farm

If You See Any Signs:

1. Isolate the animal immediately. ➤ Move it to the nearest camp, do not walk it through the farm.
2. Contact your state vet and the RMIS Operational Centre. (Where possible, take a photo of the symptoms to send through)



What Happens Next?

Immediate	The farm will be placed under verbal quarantine by state vet. All movement of animals on the farm should stop.
Within 2 days	A State Vet will take samples on the farm of suspected animals.
1 week	Samples are sent to Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI) in Pretoria.

Test Results Are Confirmed

Negative	Monitor the herd for at least 21 more days. A second state vet visit may be required before quarantine is lifted.
Positive	The herd stays in isolation and the FMD contingency plan starts.

- Latest Updates: <https://rmis.co.za/fmd-updates/>
- Live Outbreak Map: <https://rmis.co.za/disease-incidents/>

RMIS Operational Centre

 **067 391 4530**

 **opscentre@rmis.co.za**