

# Foot and Mouth Disease: Mtubatuba Outbreak Follow-up Report and Surveillance Update

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9 July 2021



agriculture, land reform  
& rural development

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Department:

Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Report compiled by:

Directorate: Animal Health

This report includes all information as available by close of business 9 July 2021.

## 1. Introduction and summary

Note that this report is to be read with the report of 2 July 2021.

In May 2021, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in cattle was confirmed at a dip tank in the Umkhanyakude District Municipality of the KwaZulu-Natal Province. Since the discovery and reporting of the index case, seventeen other locations have been identified as FMD positive and reported to the OIE. The following map shows positive locations to date. Note that locations with close proximity may appear as a single location on this map.

**Map 1: FMD positive locations in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**



## 2. Affected locations

The eighteen positive locations identified to date encompass dip tanks in two distinct communal grazing areas, and a commercial feedlot in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) as well as serological detection of antibodies against the virus at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research OIE Reference Laboratory - Agricultural Research Council, confirmed all infections to date.

## 3. Control measures implemented

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has declared a Disease Management Area (DMA) in the KwaZulu-Natal Province in the Government Gazette No. 44783 on 30 June 2021. The DMA includes the district municipalities of King Cetshwayo, Umkhanyakude and Zululand.

A movement control protocol has been implemented with the aim to monitor and control movement of livestock and livestock products out of, into, within and through the DMA. The full movement protocol is available upon request.

No emergency vaccination has been conducted yet. The use of vaccination will be considered once the extent of the outbreak and the rate of spread have been determined through continued epidemiological investigations.

Dip tank and farm inspections are carried out daily by Veterinary Services in the Province. Strict biosecurity measures are in place when inspecting and sampling around infected locations as well as throughout the areas at risk to avoid the spread of disease through direct or indirect contact.

#### **4. Epidemiological investigation**

The virus responsible for the outbreak is a SAT 2 serotype. The first round of clinical and serological surveillance around the affected areas has been completed. A second round of surveillance is soon to commence to assess the rate and extent of possible further spread of the disease.

As at 9 July 2021, the infection has been confirmed in eighteen locations. To date, a total of 13 805 sera samples have been collected from approximately 419 locations.

#### **5. Awareness**

Ground team members in the KwaZulu-Natal Province are governing communication efforts such as visits to livestock associations and traditional authorities in order to raise awareness and provide information verbally on the importance of biosecurity during a disease outbreak, via local radio stations and in the form of pamphlets and posters, which are available in various languages.

Much attention has also been paid to educating members of the Joint Operating Committee about the disease and the risks associated with the movement of cloven-hoofed animals.

#### **6. Trade implications**

Following the loss of the OIE recognised FMD free status in January 2019, agreements were negotiated with trade partners on the export of safe commodities as per the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Communication efforts are ongoing to keep trade partners up to date with the disease situation in the country as well as the implementation of control measures to contain the disease.

Director Animal Health

Date: