
Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and surveillance update report

25 March 2022*



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

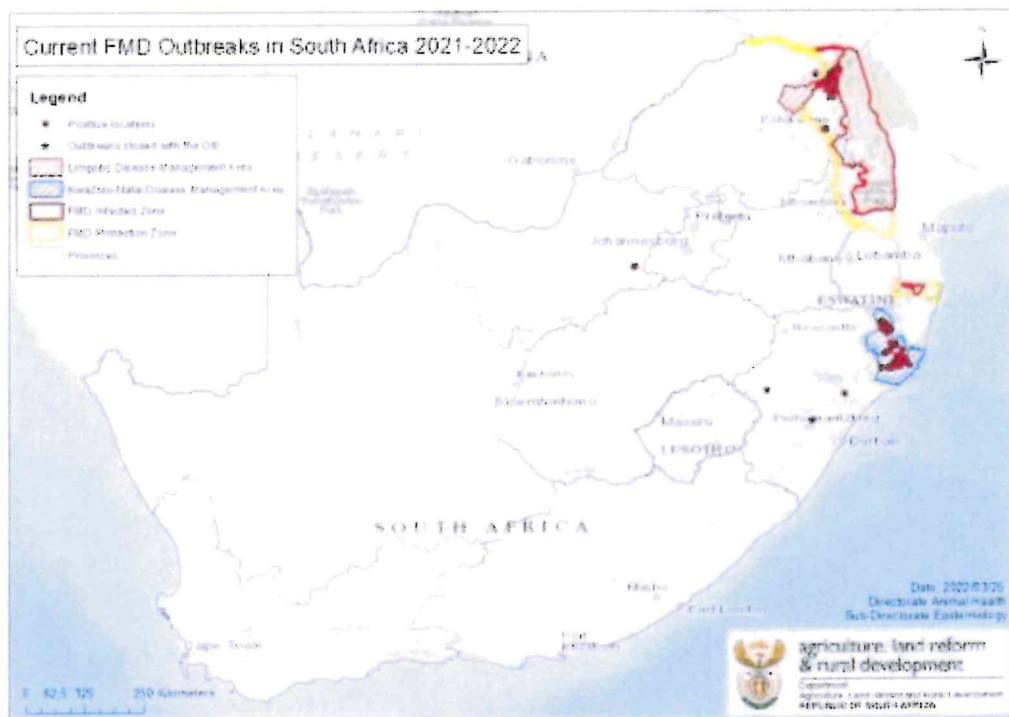
Report compiled by:
Directorate: Animal Health

* This report includes all information as available by close of business on the indicated date. All the updates contained in this report may not currently reflect on the OIE WAHIS system due to technical difficulties with the OIE reporting system

1. Introduction and summary

South Africa currently has 44 open Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks in the previous FMD free zone, comprised of three outbreak events. The first event started in May 2021 and is affecting KwaZulu Natal province, with a total of 42 reported outbreaks (40 open and 2 resolved). The second outbreak event started in March 2022 in the previous free zone in Limpopo Province with 2 reported outbreaks. The third outbreak event also started in March 2022 in the North West Province, with 2 reported outbreaks.

Map 1: Reported outbreaks in the previous FMD free zone



Summary of active outbreaks per province:

Province	Number of open outbreaks	Number of resolved outbreaks	Total number of outbreaks	Last reported outbreak
KwaZulu Natal	40	2	42	25 March 2022
Limpopo (previous free zone)	2	0	2	11 March 2022
North West	2	0	2	25 March 2022
Total	44	2	46	

2. Details of open outbreaks

2.1 North West Province

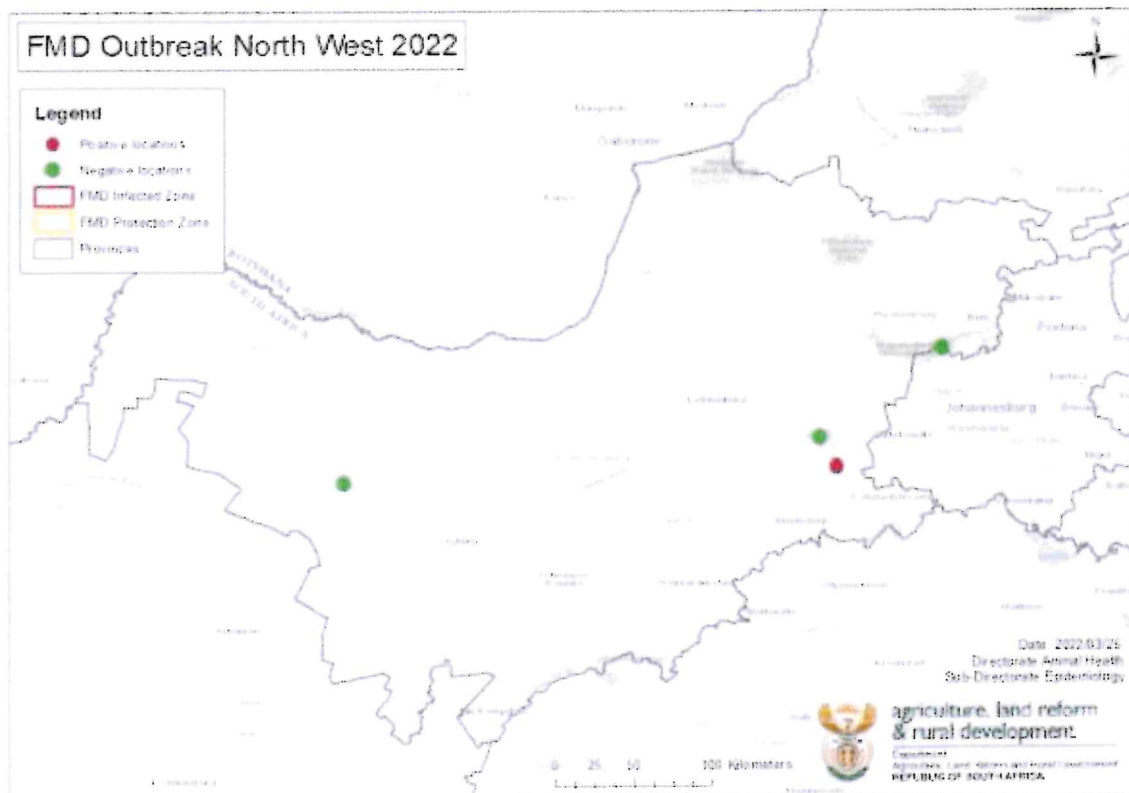
2.1.1 Affected locations

The index case was diagnosed on a stud farm in the area between Potchefstroom and Ventersdorp. Animals exhibited clinical signs consistent with FMD, including salivation, mouth and coronary band erosions. The neighbouring farm also tested positive for FMD. Other suspect and/or epidemiologically linked locations are being followed up.

2.1.2 Control measures implemented

The affected farms were placed under quarantine. Trace-back and trace-forward exercises are underway to identify epidemiologically linked locations, which are placed under precautionary movement suspension pending the outcome of clinical and serological investigations.

Map 2: Outbreak event in North West Province



Note: Dots on the map that indicate locations in close proximity might appear as single dots.

2.2 Limpopo Province

2.2.1 Affected locations

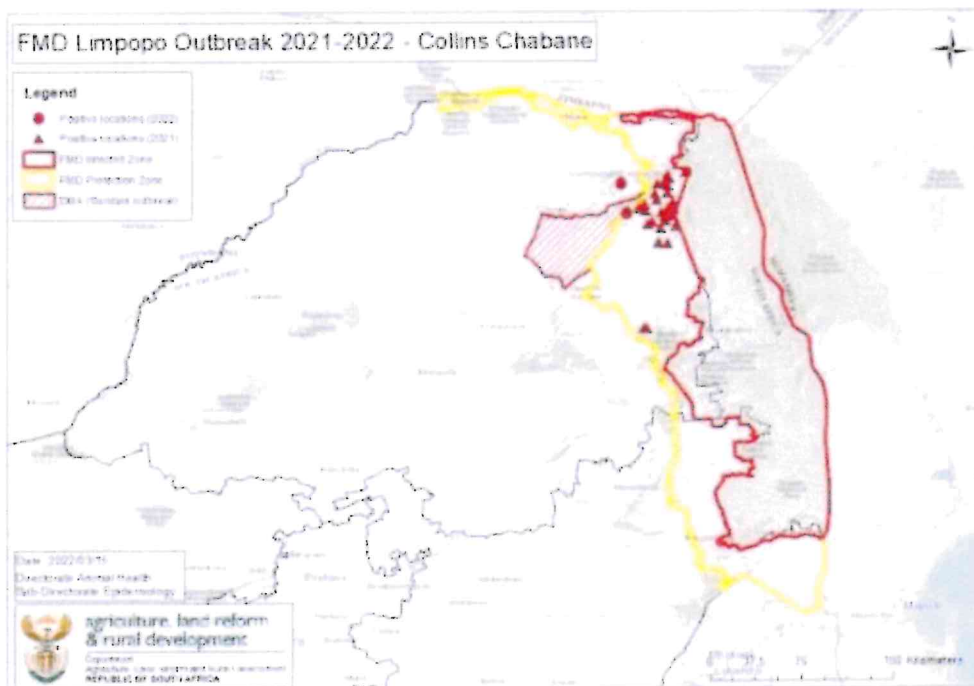
An outbreak of FMD was detected in two locations in communal grazing land in the previous FMD free zone in Vhembe in Limpopo Province. One of the two new infected locations is in Collins Chabane, in the Limpopo Disease Management Area (LP DMA), which was declared in January 2019 and remains in place, while the other infected location is in Thulamela to the north of the DMA.

2.2.2 Control measures implemented

Other locations in the area with clinical signs suggestive of FMD are under investigation and the margins of the Limpopo DMA is being reconsidered. The affected dip tanks were placed under quarantine and movement restrictions were put in place for epidemiologically linked dip tanks and high risk locations.

In an effort to curtail the spread of the disease, cattle are being vaccinated to establish a band of resistant animals around the known positive dip tanks.

Map 3: Outbreak event in Limpopo Province



2.3 KwaZulu Natal Province

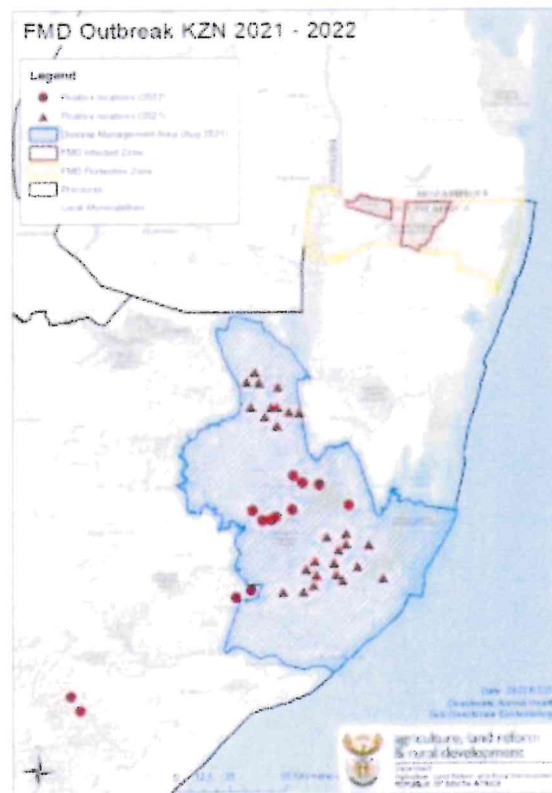
2.3.1 Affected locations

Since the update report of 23 February 2022, five additional infected dip tanks were identified. One new location is in Nongoma inside the DMA. Two fall just outside of the DMA in the Mthonjaneni municipality, while the other two fall some distance to the south-west of the DMA, in the uMlalazi and Nkandla municipalities (near the Maphumulo municipality).

2.3.2 Increasing the size of the KZN Disease Management Area:

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development declared a Disease Management Area (DMA) in the KwaZulu-Natal Province in the Government Gazette No. 44783 on 30 June 2021, which was reduced in size on 7 September 2021, as declared in the Government Gazette No. 45109. Following the resurgence of the outbreaks in January 2022, and subsequent spread of the disease beyond the margins of the DMA, the margins of the KZN DMA is being reconsidered to include all areas with positive locations or perceived to be at high risk of infection due to being epidemiologically linked. In the meantime, the individual locations are being quarantined.

Map 4: Outbreak event in KwaZulu Natal Province



2.3.3 Movement control

The newly identified infected dip tanks were placed under quarantine and movement control measures also remain in place in the DMA. Serological and clinical surveillance is ongoing to determine the extent of spread of the disease. There has been no change in the movement restrictions on cloven-hoofed animals, their products and genetic material out of, into, within or through the revised DMA. Roadblocks and Visible Veterinary Patrols continue to monitor movements of animals within, through and out of the DMA.

2.3.4 Vaccination

A vaccination campaign commenced on 15 March 2022 in the areas where there appears to be active virus circulation. A risk-based approach is followed, to ensure that the areas at highest risk are vaccinated first.

3. Confirmation of diagnosis

For all reported outbreaks, confirmation of disease was done using a combination of the following diagnostic tests at the ARC Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Transboundary Animal Diseases laboratory (OVR-TAD):

- Solid Phase Competition ELISA (SPCE)
- Non Structural Protein (NSP) ELISA
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

4. Epidemiological investigation

The outbreak in Vhembe district in Limpopo Province is caused by a SAT 3 virus. This outbreak is most likely due to spill-over from an outbreak in the adjacent FMD Protection zone, which was detected in March 2021 and where 28 outbreaks were reported. Based on surveillance activities conducted in the second half of 2021, it appeared at the time that the infection in the protection zone had come to an end. However, it resurfaced in 2022 and was found in dip tanks in the former FMD free zone.

In KwaZulu Natal Province, epidemiological investigations to date have not revealed a plausible source for the outbreak. However, the virus responsible for the outbreak is a SAT 2 serotype and is closely related to a SAT 2 virus responsible for an outbreak that occurred in the Protection Zone in northern Limpopo Province in 2019. It is therefore most likely that illegal movement of animals from the Protection Zone in Limpopo, to KZN Province, may be the cause of the outbreak in KZN.

The virus responsible for the outbreak in North West has not yet been isolated, but the outbreak is suspected to be related to the ongoing outbreak event in Limpopo Province.

5. Surveillance

Clinical and serological surveillance around the affected areas continue, with intensified inspections around newly identified infected dip tanks in communal areas, or epidemiologically linked locations identified through forward and backward tracing. The clinical presentation of the disease in different locations have varied, from the classical clinical picture in some locations, to absence of clinical signs in others. Surveillance is therefore based on both clinical inspections, including mouthings, as well as serology.

6. Awareness

Media releases alerted all farmers, livestock owners, members of industry and other stakeholders to abide by the movement restrictions in place in both the Limpopo and KZN DMA's, as well as the restrictions within all affected areas. In the whole country, farmers, livestock owners, members of industry and other stakeholders are strongly urged not to move cloven hoofed animals without proper knowledge of the health status of the farm of origin. If there is any suspicion of FMD or linkage to an FMD affected property, members of the public must contact the State Veterinary Services immediately.

Name: Dr Mpho Maja
Reason: :
Date: 2022.03.28 13:26:09 CAT
Director Animal Health

Date: