

27 July 2022

## CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER BULLETIN

### Foot and Mouth Disease Update for Veterinary Practitioners

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#### Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Update – 27 July 2022

- The following information is for all veterinarians whether you are in small or large animal or mixed or equine practice, university, industry or retired. Your veterinary skills are valuable, and you are an important source of factual information for your clients and communities.
- Since FMD was reported in Indonesia in May 2022 there has been continued spread across 22 provinces including Bali, with over 400,000 livestock affected. The country instigated movement controls of animals and product in some areas and rolled out a major vaccination program to assist in controlling the outbreak. These control efforts are occurring concurrently with the response to a Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) outbreak that is also ongoing in Sumatra. The Australian government has offered both financial and technical support to assist Indonesia to control the outbreak and reduce the risk posed to Australia.
- The most likely entry point for FMD into Australia is the illegal importation of contaminated milk or meat product that is subsequently illegally fed to pigs - Prohibited pig feeding (swill feeding). Recently, there has been increased media around the risk of travellers from Bali potentially being a pathway for spreading FMD. This risk is much lower than the prohibited pig feed pathway. If people clean their shoes and clothes and do not come in contact with livestock for 5-7 days when returning from FMD infected countries then the risk can be managed. The estimated loss to the Australian economy in the event of an outbreak is \$80 billion over 10 years with significant flow on effects to rural and regional businesses and communities.
- Nationally, increased border biosecurity measures have been undertaken to prevent possible entry of FMD into the country. In addition, the Ausvetplan FMD response strategy has been undergoing review with input from all jurisdictions as well as industry stakeholders. Please review the Ausvetplan document so you are familiar what would happen in a FMD response.
- In New South Wales (NSW) the Department of Primary Industry (DPI) and Local Land Services (LLS) have been revising preparedness documentation and working with emergency agencies (including Police, Environmental Protection Agency, Resilience NSW, Fire and Rescue) to enhance operational preparedness for a response and the implementation of a National livestock standstill. This includes working with veterinary stakeholders to understand the role they may play in an emergency animal disease (EAD) response. A specific project is underway to engage private veterinarians in an emergency animal disease outbreaks so we have a ready workforce.

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#### What can you do as a veterinarian?

1. Review the NSW DPI Foot and mouth disease website, which includes the FMD Fact sheet and FMD Field investigation which includes information on clinical signs, what samples to collect and how to decontaminate off a property
2. Review the AVA/EVA “Suit up” video

3. **Save** the **24-hour EAD Hotline** number **1800 675 888** to your contacts
4. **Download** a copy of the **Emergency Animal Diseases- a field guide for Australian veterinarians**
5. **Access** online training to improve your knowledge and understanding of the emergency management framework at **<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/online-training-courses/>**
6. **Order** viral transport media (PBGs) from NSW Animal and Plant Health Laboratory Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMA)
7. **Stock** disposable PPE and decontamination equipment in your clinic
8. **REGISTER HERE to attend** the vet only webinar on FMD disease to be led by Sarah Britton, NSW Chief Veterinary Officer on Tuesday 02 August 2022 at 7:00pm

Additional training material is available through **The European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EUFMD)**

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