



## **Progress Update**

*27 February 2026*

*Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) remains active across multiple provinces. The national vaccination rollout is now underway as part of efforts to contain spread and stabilise the national herd.*

### **Joint Working Group on FMD Brings New Momentum to the National Response**

The rollout of FMD vaccination across the country is underway and, as it progresses, operational challenges are being reported. Despite these challenges and the frustration on the ground, everyone involved in the response agrees that failure is not an option.

This week, this shared commitment translated into action when the Department of Agriculture, the MTT and the FMD ICC formally came together as the Joint Working Group on FMD, establishing a central structure to support the national response.

Each member of the Joint Working Group plays a distinct but complementary role. By working together on planning, implementation and oversight of the national response, the focus is to improve coordination, delivery and efficiency on the ground.

The various industry bodies represented on the FMD ICC will actively support coordination through industry mobilisation, with further details to follow after the first formal meeting of the Joint Working Group.

### **Early Findings from FMD Study Could Reduce Financial Losses**

A research study examining FMD virus persistence at slaughter is showing promising early results.

Under current regulations, certain parts of the carcass must be destroyed, which results in financial losses across the value chain.

If the research is accepted following formal peer review, it could lead to changes in how this is managed and significantly reduce unnecessary losses.

Based on the early findings, the Department has already reduced the waiting period requirement to three months, pending completion of the peer review process.

You can read more about the study here:

<https://rmis.co.za/landmark-fmd-study/>

## **Important Notices & Updates:**

### ***Traceability - Tagging of Vaccinated Animals***

There is ongoing confusion regarding tagging requirements for vaccination. To clarify, you do not need to purchase RFID tags. Each animal must simply have a unique identification number that is clearly displayed and traceable.

### ***Application and Indemnity Forms***

The FMD ICC is currently reviewing the legal basis of the indemnity form referred to in the 20-02-2026 Update, and will feedback as soon as possible.

### ***KZN DMA***

Documents for the lifting of the DMA is currently with the Minister for finalisation.

***The FMD Management Plan (Contingency Plan)*** is currently under review by the MTT.

### ***National Roll Out Plan***

Due to the decentralised structure of government in South Africa, the FMD ICC will engage directly with provincial leadership and their veterinary departments through the recognised industry and organised agriculture offices in each province.

### ***Section 9 – Movement Permits***

Awaiting feedback on the input submitted.

### ***Section 10 – formal approval process enabling specific FMD control actions under the law***

The Minister will do the final review of the Section 10 on Thursday, 5 March, following a meeting between representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the MTT and the FMD ICC, where input from all three will be considered.

### ***Section 21 / SAHPRA***

RMIS has made legal counsel available to SAHPRA, to prepare a memorandum on the supply and administration of FMD vaccines. This will then form the basis of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure applications are processed efficiently in future.

*The FMD ICC will continue to update stakeholders and provide practical guidance as the national response progresses.*

- *Please raise any implementation issues through your industry representatives.*
- *If you want to report or raise something anonymously, you can send it to 073 786 7363 on WhatsApp.*
- *If you notice clinical signs of FMD in your animals such as limping, mouth or nose lesions, or excessive drooling/salivation - whether current or anytime in the past three months - please send only the GPS coordinates from the nearest S-road or main road to the same number.*
- *You are not required to submit any information that can identify you.*

**Note to Media:**

- *All media enquiries must be directed to Sara-Lea van Eeden, FMD ICC Communications Lead, at [sara-lea@s-ellepr.com](mailto:sara-lea@s-ellepr.com).*
- *A minimum lead time of 24 hours is required.*
- *While we recognise the pressure of news deadlines and will always aim to respond as soon as possible and meet deadlines, the operating environment is dynamic, which may at times affect response timelines.*

*All media requests must include the following information:*

- *Your deadline*
- *Preferred format (for example: live or pre-recorded interview, telephonic, in-person, online, email interview, or written comment)*
- *The specific focus of your enquiry (for example: scientific or animal health matters, economic or trade impact, or operational response)*
- *The specific questions you would like addressed*

*Responses are coordinated across all nine FMD ICC members and this procedure enables the FMD ICC to provide you with accurate responses that support responsible and factual reporting during a national crisis.*