

MEDIA STATEMENT FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE



FMD Resources



Foot-and-Mouth Disease Update 5: Garden Route District Municipality Multi-Agency Command Centre on 18 February 2026 at 14h15

Joint Statement: Garden Route DM, Western Cape Government and Agri Western Cape

FMD STATS: GARDEN ROUTE

Affected municipal area:	Mossel Bay
Potential municipal area affected (test results pending):	George
FMD-affected farms (officially confirmed):	2 (+1)
FMD-suspect site(s), pending test results:	2 (-2)
FMD-Vaccines administered to date:	6 453 (+2 885)
Livestock infected:	Cattle
Number of Vehicle Control Points around quarantined area:	9

VACCINES DUE TO ARRIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA

One million FMD vaccines are expected to be delivered in South Africa on 21 February 2026 (the number of vaccines earmarked for the Garden Route must still be decided). A further five million doses are expected to arrive by 1 March 2026 for rollout completed by December 2026.

WESTERN CAPE VACCINATION PRIORITIES

Phase 1: Infected herd and others within the 3km (if lesions are found outside 3km, expand to 10km).

Phase 2: Commonage and informal area livestock.

Phase 3: High-risk herds (farms close to free-roaming cattle, close to abattoirs and where there is a lot of movement, etc.).

Phase 4: Dairy herds.

Phase 5: Beef herds.

STATE VETERINARIAN FEEDBACK

Latest Test Results

The Western Cape Provincial Government (WCG) Local State Veterinarian, Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg, is still waiting for confirmation on whether two of the pending Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) test samples (one in George and one near the index farm in Hartenbos), are positive or negative.

Two other farms where samples were taken near the index farm, have tested negative for FMD.

Dr Janse van Rensburg with her team members have started to vaccinate herd within the 10km radius of the index farm, because all livestock within the 3km radius have been vaccinated. The Garden Route has administered the highest number of FMD vaccines in the Western Cape.

Free-roaming livestock vaccination schedule:

- * Brandwacht (18 February)
- * Power Town (19 February)
- * KwaNonqaba (20 and 21 February 2026)

FMD UPDATE PLANNED BY WCG PREMIER

Premier and Western Cape, and the WCG Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, will update the public about the Western Cape's Foot-and-Mouth disease response.

Date: 20 February 2026

Time: 11 am – 12 pm

Location: Premier's Media Room, First Floor, 7 Wale Street, Cape Town or MS Teams

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/37661461219398?p=1PpUEaB1kyd343btzt>

Media wishing to attend in-person or virtually are requested to contact Regan Thaw, Media Liaison Officer to the Premier, at 083 627 7246 or Regan.Thaw@westerncape.gov.za

FMD RESOURCES

All FMD resources, including updates, are uploaded here:

<https://www.gardenroute.gov.za/document-category/foot-and-mouth-disease/>

Western Cape Department of Agriculture updates, are uploaded here:

<https://www.elsenburg.com/foot-and-mouth-disease-fmd-outbreak-information/>

The next update will be published by 20 February 2026.

REPORT SUSPECT SITES

Garden Route Emergency Call Centre

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