

Garden Route
FMD Resources

MEDIA STATEMENT FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

WCG FMD
Resources

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Update 11: Garden Route District Multi-Agency Command Centre on 10 March 2026 at 17h50

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

FMD STATS: GARDEN ROUTE

Affected municipal area:	Mossel Bay
FMD-affected farms (officially confirmed):	6 (increased with 1)
FMD-suspect site(s), pending test results:	6 (increased with 1)
FMD-tests returned negative:	12
Number of farms vaccinated:	87 (increased with 13)
FMD-Vaccines administered to date:	14 124 (increased with 787)
Livestock infected: Cattle	

Number of Vehicle Control Points around quarantined area: 7 static and 4 roaming.

According to Gerhard Otto, GRDM Head of Disaster Management, "The delivery date for the next batch of FMD vaccines to the Western Cape is still being awaited".

There has been no official response from the SANDF regarding the request for assistance at vehicle control points. The municipality is also still awaiting the official FMD infectious material waste management protocol currently being developed by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).

Formal clarification on the implementation of the Article 9 protocols (i.e. protocols relating to the movement of animals) is still awaited.

It was emphasised that biosecurity and movement control measures remain the first line of defence in reducing the spread of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD).

The erection of signage on the N9, N1, and N2 routes is welcomed, as it warns people entering the province about the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Zone, restrictions on livestock entry, the need to stop at control points, and the requirement for permits.

Latest Test Results: Garden Route

This week we were informed that a sixth farm (which is epidemiologically linked to the index farm) tested positive - this farm is just outside of the current 10 km quarantine zone, therefore we extended some of the current VCP points to also cover this area. Fortunately, all the animals on this, as well as the adjacent farms, have been pro-actively vaccinated.

The Western Cape Government (WCG) Local State Veterinarian, Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg, emphasised that people are required to not move unnecessary between farms, but if needed, that good biosecurity measures be applied to help prevent the spread of FMD.

CLOSURE OF ROADS: APPLICATIONS AND ROADS CLOSED FOR TRAFFIC

Applications for the closure of Western Cape Provincial Roads must be directed to Gerhard Otto, gotto@gardenroute.gov.za. Residents will be able to access these roads, but not other motorists or cyclists.

Role players involved in approving these applications, include the GRDM Disaster Management Centre, Western Cape Provincial Government Roads Engineer, the South African Police Service and the affected local municipality law enforcement.

WESTERN CAPE VACCINATION PRIORITIES

It is important to note that when an animal is vaccinated and exposed to FMD, it gets less sick, shows milder clinical signs (fewer sores, less lameness), and they recover faster.

Phase 1: Infected herd and others within a 3km radius of an index farm (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.

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/>

WCG FMD Hotline Number: 080 928 4102 (Press 1 for FMD)

National Dept. Agriculture: 0860 246 640.

The next update will be published by 17 March 2026.

REPORT SUSPECT SITES

Garden Route Emergency Call Centre 044 805 5071 or WhatsApp 081 709 5193

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