

Garden Route  
FMD Resources

## MEDIA STATEMENT FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

WCG FMD  
Resources

### **Foot-and-Mouth Disease Update 12: Garden Route District Municipality Multi-Agency Command Centre on 17 March 2026 at 16h30**

*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):	7 (Increased by 1)
FMD-suspect site(s), pending test results:	5 (decreased by 1)
FMD-tests returned negative	13
Number of farms vaccinated	111 (Increased by 24)
FMD-Vaccines administered to date:	18 230 (Increased with 4893)
Livestock infected:	Cattle
Number of Vehicle Control Points around quarantined area:	7 static and 4 roaming

Gerhard Otto, Head of Disaster Management at GRDM, confirmed that no events will be permitted within quarantine areas, and all biosecurity measures will be strictly enforced at approved events. He noted that SAPS and municipal traffic resources are under pressure, with limited personnel available. SANDF assistance is still being awaited.

Otto added that GRDM is still awaiting the official FMD infected material waste management protocol from DEA&DP, and formal guidelines for the implementation of Article 9 animal movement protocols.

#### **Latest Test Results: Garden Route**

According to Western Cape Government (WCG) Local State Veterinarian, Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg, this week vaccination efforts will continue within the 10 km radius toward the George side.

Vaccination will also proceed on dairy farms surrounding the Gondwana Private Game Reserve due to the presence of buffalo on the reserve.

Dr Janse van Rensburg said that some applications from priority dairy farms for vaccination by private veterinarians have been approved, subject to vaccine availability. All other applications are kept on record, and when additional vaccine becomes available, it will be distributed to private veterinarians for voluntary vaccination.

In conclusion, Dr Janse van Rensburg emphasised that the three pillars of Foot-and-Mouth Disease control must remain in place, namely: (1) movement control, (2) biosecurity, and (3) vaccination. She stated, "We need all three to prevent the spread of the disease."

### **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](mailto: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/.../foot-and-mouth-disease/>

Western Cape Department of Agriculture updates, are uploaded here:

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

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

National Dept. Agriculture: 0860 246 640

The next update will be published by 5 March 2026

### **REPORT SUSPECT SITES**

Garden Route Emergency Call Centre

044 805 5071 or WhatsApp 081 709 5193

### **MEDIA QUERIES**

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