



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

Tel: (264) 61 2087513
Fax: (264) 61 2087779
Enq.: Dr. EH. Hikufe
Email: emmanuel.hikufe@mawf.gov.na

Directorate of Veterinary Services
Private Bag 12022
Ausspannplatz
WINDHOEK

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VETERINARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION NO. 6 of 2019

AN UPDATE ON FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) OUTBREAK AT SIGWE VILLAGE, IN THE FMD INFECTED ZONE, ZAMBEZI REGION, NAMIBIA

The Directorate of Veterinary Services under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry would like to update farmers and the General Public about the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak at Sigwe Village in the Zambezi region which was confirmed on the 11 August 2019 and subsequently announced to the public on the 12 August 2019.

After rounds of surveillance in the area within 30 km radius of Sigwe village by the Veterinary Officials, it was established that the outbreak **has not spread** beyond Sigwe Village. So far a total of 3934 out of 4125 cattle (95% vaccination coverage) have been vaccinated in Sigwe village. Vaccination of cattle within a radius of 30km of Sigwe village has also commenced since the 26 August and about 40 000 cattle considered to be at risk will be vaccinated by the 4th of September 2019.

In line with the Animal Health act, 1 of 2011, the area within the radius of 30 km of Sigwe village has been declared as a **controlled area**. Crushpens within the controlled area are as follows: Kalala, Kasika, Impalila, Kabukabula, Ivilivinzi, Muzii, Kazuka, Itomba, Mutwalwizi, Nsundwa, Naangwena, Naankuntwe, Ihaha, Nantungu, Limai and Silubaba.

Control measures still in place:

1. Movement restriction/ ban of all cloven-hoofed animals in, out and through (in-transit) the controlled area. Cloven-hoofed animals are animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and other wild animals and their products.
2. Movement restriction/ban of potentially infectious commodities out and through the controlled area such as hides, skins, game trophies, grass, plant materials.
3. A number of patrol teams have been set up around the controlled area and roadblocks will soon be placed at strategic around the controlled area.

4. Re-vaccination of all cattle in the controlled area with a tri-valent purified FMD vaccine has already commenced and ALL farmers are strongly urged to bring their cattle for vaccination to the designated crushpens as per announcement by DVS officials.

The following movements and activities are allowed:

1. Movement of all cloven-hoofed animals in, within and through (in- transit) other parts of the Zambezi region (in exception of the controlled area).
2. Movement of other commodities such as hides, skins, game trophies, plant materials in, out, within and through the rest of the Zambezi region (in exception of the controlled area) provided that appropriate procedures have been followed .
3. Movement of raw meat, raw milk etc in, within the Zambezi region is allowed including the controlled area.
4. Movement of grass in and within the Zambezi region is allowed including the controlled area , however grass will not be allowed to be moved out of the controlled area.
5. Slaughtering of animals at local abattoirs and markets in the region is allowed, except in the controlled area.

Transmission and spread of FMD virus

FMD is a viral disease of cloven-hoofed animals. FMD virus is found in all excretions and secretions of infected animals such as milk, semen, urine and dung as well as meat. FMD is not readily transmissible to humans and is not a public health risk.

The FMD virus can spread through any or all of the following:

- infected animals newly introduced into a herd
- contaminated materials such as hay, feed, water, milk or biologics;
- contaminated vehicles, clothing, footwear, or equipment;
- virus-infected meat or other contaminated animal products
- animals that have recently recovered from an FMD infection

FMD clinical signs include: Salivation, not grazing, limping, reluctance to move, fever, blisters and ulcers on the tongue, gum and on the feet/hoves.

Farmers and the General public are hereby once again requested to report to the relevant authorities any suspicious cases of FMD as well as movement of animals and their products as prohibited in this public notification.

The Directorate of veterinary Services under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry would like to thank Farmers and the General Public for their cooperation and support during this outbreak.


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Dr Albertina Shilongo
ACTING CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER
AND FORESTRY
CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

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