

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References

Answers to questions on notice

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Inquiry: Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

Question No: IQ22-000003

Hearing Date: 4 August 2022

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Operations Division (BOD)

Topic: Private briefing - Foot and mouth disease

Question Date: 4 August 2022

Question Type: Written

The Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee asked:

1. Clarification of the reporting period in relation to reported cases of FMD in Indonesia
2. Figures for compliance with border biosecurity measures
3. Clarification around federal and state/territory agreements and processes including EADRA and the AUSVET Plan
4. Members of the FMD Interdepartmental committee
5. Full list of countries with FMD, including where it is endemic but controlled (where this information is available), and the disease cycle of outbreaks
6. Dr Parker agreed to review a paper supplied by Senator Roberts, available here [Foot and Mouth Disease Factsheet - American College of Veterinary Pathologists \(acvp.org\)](#) and attached, with particular reference to the survival period of FMD.

Answer:

1. Indonesia officially declared an outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) to the world animal health organisation (OIE) on 9 May 2022. The Indonesian government has only commenced officially reporting the number of provinces with zero active cases on 1 August 2022.

Between 1 and 7 August 2022, no active cases have been reported in Riau Islands, South Kalimantan, Bali and Jakarta. Indonesian officials have stated publicly that FMD is not yet eradicated in these provinces despite no active cases reported and that the virus could still be circulating in the environment.

2. Figures for compliance with border biosecurity measures:

- For travellers arriving from Indonesia, we are seeing a high level of compliance with biosecurity declaration requirements. In the period 1 July to 7 August, 11 infringement notices were issued for undeclared FMD risk items. Around 130,000 passengers arrived in Australia directly from Indonesia during this period.
- For mail arriving from Indonesia in the period of 24 June to 7 August, 100% of all non-letter class mail has been inspected, with 12 mail articles detected as having FMD risk material.
- Detailed analysis is being undertaken for FMD compliance across our biosecurity pathways

3. The following links provide further information about federal and state/territory governments and AUSVETPLAN:

- The Government and Livestock Industry Cost Sharing Deed in Respect of Emergency Animal Disease Responses can be accessed from:

https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2015/09/210323_EADRA_Version2001_0820_FINAL.pdf. This is also known as the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement or EADRA.

- AUSVETPLAN manuals and supporting documents can be accessed from <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan/>.

4. There are many interactions between portfolios. The Deputy Secretary IDC on Foot and Mount Disease includes the agencies listed below.

Agency
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Emergency Management Australia
Australian Border Force
Australian Public Service Commission
Attorney-General's Department
Bureau of Meteorology
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
Department of Defence
Department of Finance
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Department of Health
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
Department of Social Services
National Indigenous Australians Agency
Services Australia
Treasury

5. As at 22 July 2022, 71 countries reported that foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) was present or suspected in their most recent self-reporting to the World Organisation for Animal Health:

The following 68 countries reported that FMD was present.

Afghanistan	Indonesia	Qatar
Algeria	Iran	Russia
Bangladesh	Iraq	Rwanda
Benin	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Bhutan	Jordan	Senegal
Botswana	Kazakhstan	Sierra Leone
Burkina Faso	Kenya	Somalia
Burundi	North Korea	South Africa
Cambodia	South Korea	South Sudan
Cameroon	Laos	Sri Lanka
Central African Republic	Libya	Sudan
China	Malawi	Tanzania
Comoros	Malaysia	Thailand
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritius	Togo
Cote d'Ivoire	Mongolia	Tunisia
Egypt	Morocco	Turkey
Eritrea	Mozambique	Uganda
Ethiopia	Myanmar	United Arab Emirates
Gambia	Namibia	Vietnam
Ghana	Nepal	Yemen
Guinea	Nigeria	Zambia
Guinea-Bissau	Oman	Zimbabwe
India	Pakistan	

The following three countries noted that FMD was suspected:

Equatorial Guinea	Mauritania	Niger
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Note that no status has been reported by the following three countries:

Congo	Gabon	Sao Tome and Principe
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6. The Department has reviewed the American College of Veterinary Pathologists factsheet (not a paper) regarding FMD virus survival. A more extensive review of the survival of foot and mouth disease virus is contained in Section 1.6.2 (p 20) and Appendix 3 (p83-88) of the AUSVETPLAN Disease Strategy Foot and Mouth Disease. This can be accessed here: <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/download/1641/>.

The survival of FMD virus on objects is taken into account in Australia's biosecurity measures at the border.