

# Interim measures following notification to Biosecurity Queensland

Following your report and notification of a suspect emergency animal disease incident, Biosecurity Queensland personnel will conduct **likelihood and risk assessments** based on the information provided, which in turn will inform advice regarding next steps.

This advice may include **enhanced biosecurity measures** to be applied such as:

- Immediately isolating the affected animals and keeping them away from the premises boundary
- Depending on the size of the premises, conducting an inspection of the premises or paddock boundaries to ensure no breaches or points exist where suspect stock could escape or wander off, or other animals could gain access to the suspect stock
- Preventing animals being moved to or from the premises. Suspect stock should not be moved near to, or across a public road
- Preventing movement from the premises of potential fomites, including vehicles, clothing, animal feed, waste material or anything that has been in contact with the suspect stock
- Preventing visitors or vehicles entering the premises. If possible, a 'NO ENTRY' or 'NO UNAUTHORISED ACCESS' sign should be placed on farm gates and other access points
- Advising people who have been in contact with the suspect stock to avoid contact with other animals, including susceptible and non-susceptible species. If foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is suspected, non-susceptible species such as dogs, cats and poultry must be prevented from contact with suspect stock as they may act as mechanical vectors which could lead to disease spread to other premises.
- Strongly advising persons on the premises against leaving the premises. Non-compliant persons should be warned that they may risk breaching their general biosecurity obligation unless adequate biosecurity precautions are undertaken. Any persons that must leave, such as for emergency reasons, must first shower out, dress in new clean clothes and leave all farm clothes on the premises, taking special care to ensure footwear is particularly clean with no organic material on the soles.
- Ensuring that someone will remain on the premises and remain contactable by phone.



**Additional actions to take if, following a likelihood and risk assessment, Biosecurity Queensland will attend the premises:**

- Do not leave the premises.
- Gather further clinical and epidemiological information for Biosecurity Queensland personnel.
  - Identify animal movements to and from the premises to assist Biosecurity Queensland personnel with a detailed calculation of the relevant source and spread tracing windows.
    - **In the case of a suspect FMD incident, obtain details of animal movements on to the premises in the 28 days prior to the date of your investigation.** This corresponds to two maximum incubation periods for FMD and will assist Biosecurity Queensland personnel with prioritising tracings to determine the potential source of infection on the premises.
    - **Obtain details about animal movements off the premises from one day prior to the onset of the first clinical signs on the premises.** This information will assist Biosecurity Queensland personnel with prioritising tracings to determine the potential spread of infection from the premises. **Note:** This should not be based on when clinical signs were first noticed and/or reported, but requires that you determine the estimated age of the oldest lesions present to ascertain when clinical signs first appeared on the premises.
  - Request and prepare production and veterinary records as these documents may be requested by Biosecurity Queensland personnel.
  - Determine if the producer cares for, or has contact with, other livestock.
  - Determine if personnel or employees on the premises have contact with other susceptible species at other premises, including their own premises.
  - Identify any equipment shared between premises including with other premises owners.
  - Identify feed sources and suppliers, if any.
  - Identify if any personnel or visitors recently travelled overseas or arrived from any countries where FMD may occur.
- Identify a suitable entry and exit site for Biosecurity Queensland personnel.
- Remain contactable by phone. For remote locations, it may be necessary to have someone remain by a landline and convey messages to field personnel through normal communications arrangements (e.g. radio, satellite phone, etc.).



**Additional actions to take if, following a likelihood and risk assessment, Biosecurity Queensland will not attend the premises:**

- Collect diagnostic samples from animals. Biosecurity Queensland personnel will provide additional instructions and guidance on appropriate sample collection.
- Gathering further clinical and epidemiological information for analysis by Biosecurity Queensland personnel.
- Following recommendations about appropriate personal and vehicle decontamination procedures to exit the premises in a biosecure manner.
- Remain contactable by phone.

**Whilst laboratory test results are pending:**

- Close monitoring of the suspect disease incident and precautionary biosecurity measures will be implemented to manage the biosecurity risk. This will include enhanced on-farm biosecurity and movement controls on animals, equipment and personnel to and from the premises.
- A Biosecurity Queensland case manager will be appointed as the point of contact to provide advice and to respond to enquiries.
- If an emergency animal disease incident is confirmed, a range of control measures will be applied by Biosecurity Queensland to eradicate the disease on the premises and to investigate and determine epidemiological linkages to other premises that require investigation.