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Reference: 12/1/8/5/P

To: Provincial Veterinary Services

Private Veterinarians

Dear colleagues,

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE VACCINATION – REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESSES

The roll-out of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination has been discussed on various forums and we trust that you are informed of the risk-based vaccine deployment strategy. We would like to provide information regarding the requirements and processes going forward.

As you may be aware, the requirements for the control and management of FMD are in the process of being updated to accommodate the current status of the disease in the country, as well as the envisaged vaccination roll-out. The new requirements are in the process of finalisation and will be made available as soon as possible. In order to streamline the immediate vaccination roll-out envisaged to commence on 23 February 2026, the following can be implemented as from the date of this letter, until the amended requirements have been finalised.

1. Vaccination of farms that are not infected or suspected of being infected

PLEASE NOTE:

All farms/premises/locations that are infected and/or suspected of being infected with FMD will be subject to state veterinary quarantine and other compulsory disease control measures, and are excluded from the provisions of this point.

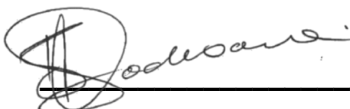
The following conditions apply to farms/premises that are not infected or suspected of being infected with FMD:

- 1.1 The owner of the land and the owner of the animals must apply in writing on the prescribed form (Application for Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccination) and written permission must be given by the Provincial Director before vaccination is undertaken.
- 1.2 If the owner of the animals prefers to make use of the services of a private veterinarian for the vaccination of his/her animals, then he/she must request the private veterinarian to make contact with the local state veterinarian and to complete the relevant part of the application form.
- 1.3 There must be no clinical signs of FMD or positive/suspect test results which point to the presence of FMD virus on the farm.

- 1.4 Vaccinated animals must have a unique individual identification, which must be recorded in a data base for the purpose of individual livestock identification and traceability.
- 1.5 There will be no movement restrictions on pre-emptively/voluntarily vaccinated animals, except for the requirement on life-long traceability of seropositive animals.
- 1.6 There must be regular inspection of the vaccinated herd by the owner, supported by veterinary inspections, to confirm the ongoing absence of clinical signs of FMD.

2. Permission for private veterinarians to perform FMD vaccinations

- 2.1 Any SAVC registered private veterinarian will be permitted to obtain and use FMD vaccines provided the private veterinarian:
 - has been nominated in writing by the farmer / owner or manager of the animals in order to respect the veterinarian-client-patient relationship as per the SAVC Rules for Veterinarians and
 - has received written permission from the provincial Head (Director or Chief Director) of Veterinary Services.
- 2.2 Private veterinarians who wish to assist with the FMD vaccination roll-out must thus contact:
 - the farmer/owner or manager of the animals for nomination as part of a request to receive services as well as
 - the local state veterinarian. The applicable responsible state veterinarian is the state veterinarian in whose area the private veterinarian would like to work, to avoid conflict, duplication, or confusion. The private veterinarian will be expected to work under the lead and guidance of the state veterinarian. The state veterinarian must consider the resource requirement of the area and the continued enforcement of biosecurity as to whether the request will be supported. If the private veterinarian intends to work in a wider area, the application must be supported by all state veterinarians involved.
- 2.3 For the farmer/owner or manager of the animals to nominate a private veterinarian and for the state veterinarian(s) to support the request for permission, the following will be required:
 - The relevant section of the attached Application Form for FMD Vaccination must be completed by the farmer / owner or manager of the animals and signed by the private veterinarian, after being requested to do so as in 1.2 above. .
 - The Application must be supported and signed by the local state veterinarian, and be submitted to the Provincial Director for approval.
 - The responsible state veterinarian will provide feedback to the private veterinarian and supply the farmer and private veterinarian with a copy of the Application Form as completed by the Provincial Director.
 - A report of all completed Applications must be sent electronically to Epidemiology@nda.gov.za on a monthly basis.



CHIEF DIRECTOR ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH

Date: 23/02/2026