FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES:
1. OVERVIEW OF ETIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

FAD PReP
Foreign Animal Disease
Preparedness & Response Plan

United States
Department of Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Veterinary Services

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The Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (FAD PReP) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) provide operational guidance for responding to an animal health emergency in the United States.

These draft SOPs are under ongoing review. This document was last updated in October 2020. Please send questions or comments to:

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## Contents

1.1 Introduction ...................................................................................................................... 1-2
   1.1.1 Goals ....................................................................................................................... 1-2
   1.1.2 Further Information ................................................................................................. 1-2

1.2 Purpose ............................................................................................................................. 1-3

1.3 Etiology ............................................................................................................................ 1-3
   1.3.1 Name ....................................................................................................................... 1-3
   1.3.2 Virus Characteristics ............................................................................................... 1-3
   1.3.3 Morphology ............................................................................................................. 1-4
   1.3.4 FMD Serotypes and Strains .................................................................................... 1-4

1.4 Ecology ............................................................................................................................ 1-5
   1.4.1 General Overview ................................................................................................... 1-5
   1.4.2 Susceptible Species ................................................................................................. 1-5
   1.4.3 Carrier State ............................................................................................................ 1-6
   1.4.4 Introduction and Transmission of FMDV ............................................................... 1-8
   1.4.5 Incubation Period .................................................................................................. 1-12
   1.4.6 Morbidity and Mortality ....................................................................................... 1-13

1.5 Environmental Persistence of FMDV ............................................................................ 1-14
   1.5.1 Environmental Persistence of FMDV in Excretions and Surroundings ............... 1-15
   1.5.2 Environmental Persistence of FMDV in Milk and Dairy Products ...................... 1-15
   1.5.3 Environmental Persistence of FMDV in Meat and Meat Products ..................... 1-16
   1.5.4 Environmental Persistence of FMDV in Wool and Hides .................................... 1-16

1.6 OIE Procedures for the Inactivation of FMDV .............................................................. 1-17
   1.6.1 Meat ...................................................................................................................... 1-17
   1.6.2 Wool and Hair ....................................................................................................... 1-17
   1.6.3 Milk and Cream for Human Consumption ........................................................... 1-18
   1.6.4 Milk for Animal Consumption .............................................................................. 1-18

Attachment 1.A References and Selected Resources .......................................................... 1-19
Attachment 1.B Abbreviations ............................................................................................. 1-25
Foot-and-Mouth Disease  
Etiology & Ecology Quick Summary

Disease
Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), fiebre aftosa, fievre aphteuse, maulund-klauenseuche.

Mortality & Morbidity
Very high morbidity; high mortality in young animals.

Susceptible Species
Domestic cloven hoofed animals (cattle, swine, sheep, goats) and wildlife (deer, bison, pronghorn antelope, feral swine).

Zoonotic Potential?
Not a threat to public health.

Carriers
Ruminants may become carriers of FMD; an estimated 50 percent of cattle may become carriers.

Transmission
Pigs excrete large amounts of virus through respiration. Virus spreads readily on contaminated equipment and other fomites. Windborne transmission can occur.

Persistence in the Environment
Survives longer at cold temperatures. Susceptible to acid and alkaline pH. Can remain infective for long periods of time where organic matter is present.

Animal Products and By-Products
FMD virus can survive for months in chilled/frozen bone marrow, lymph nodes, and can survive in sausages and other cured meats. Typical pasteurization may not completely inactivate FMD from milk.
1.1 Introduction

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects domestic cloven-hoofed animals (cattle, swine, sheep, and goats) and more than 70 wildlife species (deer, bison, pronghorn antelope, and feral swine). The disease is characterized by fever, vesicular (blister-like) lesions, and subsequent erosions on the surfaces of the mouth, tongue, nostrils, muzzle, feet, and teats.

FMD is one of the most contagious livestock diseases and endemic in many areas of the world; introduction of FMD into the United States is a serious concern. All secretions, excretions, and tissues are contagious, and the virus may be present in respirations, milk, and semen. The virus enters a new susceptible animal either orally (especially swine) or via the respiratory tract (especially cattle). Aerosol transmission is the major means of animal-to-animal spread within premises. Though FMD virus (FMDV) is not typically considered a zoonotic disease, and is not a threat to public health, there is evidence demonstrating humans can carry the virus mechanically in their nasal passages.1,2,3

FMD is not normally characterized by high death rates in adult animals, but it can produce morbidity rates of almost 100 percent, resulting in severe losses to productivity. It is probable that all animals in a susceptible population will be affected. Although it does not tend to kill adults, high mortality rates may be observed in young animals.4,5,6

1.1.1 Goals

As a preparedness goal, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will provide etiology and ecology summaries for FMD, and update these summaries at regular intervals.

As a response goal, the Unified Command and stakeholders will have a common set of etiology and ecology definitions and descriptions, to ensure proper understanding of FMD when establishing or revising goals, objectives, strategies, and procedures.

1.1.2 Further Information

This document is intended to be an overview, focusing on FMD in domestic livestock. Additional resources on FMD are listed in Attachment 1.A. The FMD Response Plan: The Red Book provides case definitions and laboratory criteria from the APHIS Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health.

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Health.

This document does not comprehensively discuss vaccination, or its effects on immunity. For more specific technical information related to vaccination, as well as a detailed review of scientific literature relating to FMD, and please see the National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) Guidelines: Vaccination for Contagious Diseases, Appendix A: FMD.

These documents are available on the APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response (FAD PReP) website: www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep.

1.2 Purpose

This document provides responders and stakeholders with a common understanding of the disease agent.

1.3 Etiology

1.3.1 Name

This disease is called foot-and-mouth disease, fiebre aftosa, fievre aphteuse, and maulund-klauenseuche.

1.3.2 Virus Characteristics

According to the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses, this disease has the following characteristics:7

- Family: Picornaviridae
  - Genus: Aphthovirus, containing four species:
    - Foot-and-mouth disease virus
    - Bovine rhinitis A virus
    - Bovine rhinitis B virus
    - Equine rhinitis A virus
- Baltimore Classification: Group IV (+) ssRNA.8,9

1.3.3 Morphology
FMD is a single-stranded ribonucleic acid (RNA) virus, approximately 30 nanometers in diameter, with icosahedral symmetry. There are 60 copies of four structural proteins, VP1, VP2, VP3, and VP4. These proteins encapsidate a single strand of positive-sense RNA.\textsuperscript{10,11,12}

1.3.4 FMD Serotypes and Strains
There are seven serotypes of FMD: O, A, C, Asia-1, and South African Territories (SAT) 1, SAT 2, and SAT 3. Type O is the most prevalent serotype worldwide, followed by type A.\textsuperscript{13} Within these serotypes, more than 60 strains have been identified.\textsuperscript{14} Figure 1-1 illustrates the typical distribution of serotypes in recent outbreaks.\textsuperscript{15}

\textbf{Figure 1-1. Worldwide FMD Events in 2018}

![Worldwide FMD Events in 2018](image)


FMDV is highly susceptible to change, resulting from errors in RNA replication, recombination, and host selection.\(^{16}\) There is no cross-protection between the distinct serotypes.\(^{17}\) Protection within serotypes varies based on the antigenic similarity of the strains. Subsequently, any vaccine must be carefully matched with the field strain to be effective. For more information on FMD vaccination matching, please see the *FAD PreP/NAHEMS Guidelines: Vaccination for Contagious Diseases, Appendix A: FMD* found at [www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep).

### 1.4 Ecology

#### 1.4.1 General Overview

FMD is currently endemic in areas of Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and South America.\(^{18}\) Seven of these countries maintain FMD OIE-endorsed control programs: China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, and Thailand.\(^{19}\) Only 68 countries, including those of North America (the United States, Canada, and Mexico), Central America, and Western Europe, as well as Australia and New Zealand are free of FMD (without vaccination).\(^{19,20}\) The last FMD outbreak in the United States was in 1929.\(^{21}\)

#### 1.4.2 Susceptible Species

FMDV infects cloven-hooved mammals (order *Artiodactyla*), as well as a few species in other orders. Livestock susceptible to FMD, common in the United States, include:

- cattle,
- pigs,
- sheep, and
- goats.

In addition, deer, bison, and elk are also susceptible to the virus. Wild pigs, antelope, African buffalo, Bactrian camels, elephants and giraffe are also all susceptible species. Llamas and alpacas have been infected experimentally, but do not seem to be highly susceptible to natural infection. Other animals like rats, mice, guinea pigs, and armadillos have all been experimentally infected.\(^{22,23,24}\) Strains may have a predilection for one animal species over another.\(^{25}\) For

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example, serotype O, Cathay topotype, causes severe disease in pigs, but not in cattle. Figure 1-2 presents the density of FMD susceptible livestock species in the world.

![Figure 1-2. Density of FMD Susceptible Animals Livestock Species, i.e., Combined Cattle, Pigs, Sheep, and Goats](image)

Source: Knight-Jones, T. and Rushton, J. (n.d.).

### 1.4.3 Carrier State

A carrier is defined as an animal in which there is persistence of FMDV or the viral genome in the pharyngeal region for at least 28 days post-infection. Generally speaking, a “carrier” is defined in epidemiological terms as an animal that is infected and can disseminate the infection in the absence of symptoms. This is to be distinguished from animals with neoteric infections, or subclinical infections of hosts immune from fulminant disease, e.g., vaccinated animals.

Animals with neoteric infections may shed large amounts of virus; however, with FMD, carrier animals shed low amounts of virus and may or may not be able to transmit infection in field conditions. African buffalo are the only carrier animals that have been demonstrated to be able to

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definitively transmit FMDV (SAT serotypes) to other buffalo and potentially cattle.\textsuperscript{30,31,32,33} For more information on carrier transmission, please see the \textit{FAD PReP/NAHEMS Guidelines: Vaccination for Contagious Diseases, Appendix A: FMD} found at \url{www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep}.

In addition to African buffalo, water buffalo, cattle, sheep, and goats can also become carriers. The duration of the carrier state in farm animals has been reported to be as long as 3.5 years for cattle and 9 months for small ruminants.\textsuperscript{34} Commonly, studies indicate that greater than 50\% of infected cattle may still harbor FMD virus 6 weeks to 6 months after initial infection, clearing within 2 years.\textsuperscript{26,35,36} Persistent infections have also been identified in some experimentally infected wildlife species, including white-tailed deer and kudu, but not feral swine.\textsuperscript{37}

There has been no carrier state identified in swine.\textsuperscript{26,38} Pigs clear FMDV from sera, oral, nasal or oropharyngeal fluids in 28 days, although FMDV RNA could be extracted from lymph node tissue at 60 days post-infection.\textsuperscript{39}

The epidemiological significance of carrier animals in FMD outbreaks of cattle is uncertain. Although there is no evidence that any carrier species can transmit FMDV in the field to naïve animals, the perception of risk remains and cannot be discounted. The prevalence of carrier animals in a herd and factors influencing this prevalence—regardless of whether vaccination is


\textsuperscript{34} Bronsvoort, B. M. d. et al. (2016). Redefining the “carrier” state for foot-and-mouth disease from the dynamics of virus persistence in endemically affected cattle populations. \textit{Sci. Rep.} 6, 29059. DOI: 10.1038/srep29059. Retrieved from \url{https://www.nature.com/articles/srep29059}.

employed—continues to require additional research. The *NAHEMS Guidelines: Vaccination for Contagious Diseases, Appendix A: FMD* contains more information on the known epidemiological role and prevalence of carrier animals, impact of vaccination on carrier status, and detection of carriers via diagnostic testing.

### 1.4.4 Introduction and Transmission of FMDV

FMD is highly contagious. FMDV is typically introduced via contact with infected animals, their secretions, excretions, or fomites, or products contaminated with FMDV. FMD can also be introduced into a naïve animal population by feeding contaminated meat, milk, or garbage. Conveyances may be responsible for transmitting the disease between an infected and an uninfected premises. Insects and birds may also be mechanical vectors; no biological vector of the virus has been identified.

Cattle typically become infected through aerosolized virus. Pigs usually become infected by eating virus-contaminated food, or through direct contact with the vesicular lesions of other animals. Pigs also can excrete large quantities of the virus through respiration, infecting susceptible animals. As such, pigs are considered key amplifiers of the virus.

#### 1.4.4.1 Live Animals and Virus Shedding

Animal to animal contact is a common mode of transmission. FMDV is shed in all secretions and excretions, including saliva, milk, semen, and ruptured vesicular fluid, and to a lesser extent, feces and urine. Pigs produce nearly 3,000-fold more of FMDV in respiratory secretions than either

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cattle or sheep.\textsuperscript{51,52} The amount of virus excreted by various species will also vary based on the serotype and strain of the FMDV.\textsuperscript{53} Table 1-1 provides the approximate amount of virus excretion for cattle, pigs, and small ruminants, respectively in A, B, and C, indicating the significant difference in their levels of virus shedding.

**Table 1-1. FMDV Excretion\textsuperscript{54}**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FMDV Infection Variables</th>
<th>Number of Observations</th>
<th>Maximum Titre Average (Range) TCID\textsubscript{50}/ml</th>
<th>Maximum Titre Standard Deviation TCID\textsubscript{50}/ml</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>4.51 (0.95, 8.65)</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Secretion and Excretion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airborne</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.33 (3.88, 5.08)</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>4.03 (0.95, 6.20)</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faeces</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.55 (1.50, 1.75)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4.48 (2.15, 7.35)</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URT (OFF Swabs, saliva and nasal discharge)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5.70 (1.25, 5.80)</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal Discharge Only</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.09 (2.75, 7.85)</td>
<td>1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probiotics</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>4.91 (2.20, 6.85)</td>
<td>1.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semen</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4.55 (2.10, 6.20)</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urine</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.93 (1.00, 3.80)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route of Infection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interspecific</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>4.68 (0.95, 8.65)</td>
<td>1.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenteral</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>4.75 (1.25, 5.80)</td>
<td>1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contagious</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>4.17 (1.00, 8.05)</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.60 (NA)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMDV Serotype</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3.98 (2.10, 8.05)</td>
<td>1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>4.54 (0.95, 8.65)</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia-1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.10 (2.80, 5.00)</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.62 (2.10, 7.00)</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT (1, 2, 3)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4.26 (2.10, 6.00)</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{51} Thomson, G. R. (1996). The role of carrier animals in the transmission of foot and mouth disease. In OIE comprehensive reports on technical items presented to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions (p. 87–103). Retrieved from \url{http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D3014.PDF}.


Because cattle are more likely to be infected through inhalation, and pigs shed a significant amount of FMDV via respiration, highly concentrated herds of infected pigs in close proximity to naïve cattle herds poses a significant risk of transmission from pigs to cattle.\textsuperscript{55}

### 1.4.4.2 Air/Windborne Transmission

Airborne FMDV can result from a large number of infected pigs, resulting in plumes of aerosolized virus in the atmosphere.\textsuperscript{56} Cattle, because they inhale more air and are easily infected

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through respiration, are the species frequently infected when FMDV is airborne.\textsuperscript{57} Under specific climate conditions (particularly downwind), aerosolized FMDV produced by infected pigs can travel a significant distance often infecting cattle from upwards of 10 kilometers (km)—20-300 km being predicted with simulation models in the United Kingdom, and infecting sheep from 10–100 km away.\textsuperscript{58,59}

Many different factors influence how well FMD aerosolizes, and how far aerosolized virus may spread. As already mentioned, the species of the infected animal is significant, as pigs excrete more virus through respiration than cattle or sheep. In addition, the amount of virus emitted into the air will be impacted by the stage of the disease in the infected animal, as well as the number and concentration of infected animals, and the strain of the virus.\textsuperscript{60} In terms of climatic conditions, a relative humidity of 55 percent or more, with low and steady winds, is favorable for FMDV spread via aerosol.\textsuperscript{61,62,63} The virus also seems to spread significantly better over water than over land.\textsuperscript{64}

1.4.4.3 Fomite Transmission

FMDV is readily transmitted through vehicles, equipment, boots, clothing, and other fomites. In an FMD outbreak, the movement of fomites is a critical transmission pathway which must be addressed, particularly because FMDV can persist on fomites for an extended period of time with persistence based on many factors, including decreased temperatures.\textsuperscript{65}

1.4.4.4 Personnel

One experimental study demonstrated that humans can harbor FMDV in their nasal passages for 28 hours (one subject), although the concentration of virus was markedly reduced over the first 3.5

hours post-exposure and below the assay limit of detection in 24 hours in the other subjects. For this reason, responders may be advised by regulatory officials to employ a waiting period when traveling between premises. Evidence suggests that with appropriate biosecurity and cleaning and disinfection measures, the necessity for extended personnel waiting times or down periods is lessened.

1.4.4.5 Wildlife

It is unclear what role wildlife would play in disease transmission if there was an FMD outbreak in the United States, Red, fallow, and roe deer were all susceptible to FMDV when exposed in the laboratory, though severity of clinical signs varied. However, in the 2001 epidemic in the United Kingdom, evidence suggests deer were not epidemiologically important in the spread of FMD. A general conclusion is that wildlife would not likely play a role in transmission of FMDV to livestock in a U.S. FMD outbreak, with acknowledgement that propagation of disease by wildlife should be a consideration in a response effort.

1.4.5 Incubation Period

The incubation period for FMD is typically 2–14 days, and is defined by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as 14 days for the purpose of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019). During the beginning phases in the prevalence of FMDV, the incubation period may be as short as 24 hours. How fast clinical signs appear depends on the dose of the virus, species of the animal, as well as the route of infection. Animals may shed FMDV before the appearance

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1.4.5.1 Infectious Dose

Different animal species vary in their susceptibility to FMDV, which is also influenced by the route of infection. Table 1-2 lists the infectious dose and mode of infection for key animals, given the primary mode of transmission for that species.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Infectious Dose</th>
<th>Common Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>May be as low as 20 TCID$_{50}$</td>
<td>Inhalation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep and goats</td>
<td>May be as low as 20 TCID$_{50}$</td>
<td>Direct contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>Approximately log$<em>{10}$ 5 TCID$</em>{50}$</td>
<td>Ingestion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: TCID$_{50}$ = 50 percent tissue culture infectious dose.

1.4.6 Morbidity and Mortality

The morbidity and mortality of FMD varies depending on the species affected, as well as the serotype and strain of the virus. Morbidity is significant, and can approach 100 percent. Mortality is typically low in adult animals (1 to 5 percent), though higher mortality rates are typically observed in very young animals, usually from acute myocarditis.

1.4.6.1 Clinical Signs

FMDV is typically characterized by high morbidity, evidenced by characteristic vesicles on the oral and nasal mucosa, teats, coronary bands, and interdigital spaces. However, before vesicles appear, a decreased appetite progresses as fever develops. The clinical signs can vary based on the serotype and strain of the FMDV. Generally speaking, sheep and goats typically have milder

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clinical signs than cattle. The following sections provide more detail on the clinical signs in cattle, pigs, and sheep and goats.

1.4.6.1.1 Cattle

Cattle usually present with fever, anorexia, shivering, and reduction in milk production for approximately 2–3 days, before vesicular lesions are observable on mucous membranes, interdigital spaces, and on the coronary band. The vesicles will rupture in approximately 1 day, and recovery occurs in 8–15 days. Excessive salivation is often observed in cattle and milk yields are reduced by 80 percent.

1.4.6.1.2 Pigs

In pigs, severe lesions typically are observed on the feet, as well as on the snout, udder, as well as hock and elbow. Excessive salivation is less likely in pigs than in cattle, and lesions in the mouth are milder than those observed elsewhere.

1.4.6.1.3 Sheep and Goats

Fewer clinical signs are seen in sheep and goats. Mouth lesions are often not obvious, though lesions can develop on heel bulbs and on the coronary band. Sheep and goats may be important in transmission, as infection presents with mild clinical signs and may not be as immediately recognized.

1.5 Environmental Persistence of FMDV

FMDV is moderately stable in the environment. The FMD virus is susceptible to both acid and alkaline pH. However, under certain conditions, it can maintain infectivity in the environment for extended periods of time. Presence of organic matter increases its persistence.

Table 1-3. Resistance of FMDV to Physical and Chemical Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Resistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>Preserved by refrigeration and freezing. Progressively inactivated by temperatures above 50 ºC. Heating meat to a minimum core temperature of 70 ºC for at least 30 minutes inactivates the virus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>Quickly inactivated by pH &lt;6.0 or &gt;9.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disinfectants</td>
<td>Inactivated by sodium hydroxide (2%), sodium carbonate (4%), citric acid (0.2%), acetic acid (2%), sodium hypochlorite (3%), potassium peroxymonsulfate/sodium chloride (1%), and chlorine dioxide. Resistant to iodophores, quaternary ammonium compounds, and phenol, especially in the presence of organic matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Survives in lymph nodes and bone marrow at neutral pH, but destroyed in muscle at pH &lt;6.0, i.e., after rigor mortis. Survives in frozen bone marrow or lymph nodes. Residual virus survives in milk and milk products during regular pasteurization, but is inactivated by ultra-high temperature pasteurization. Survives drying but may persist for days to weeks in organic matter under moist and cool temperatures. Can persist in contaminated fodder and the environment for up to 1 month, depending on the temperature and pH conditions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OIE Technical Disease Card for FMD, April 2013.

Sunlight does not have a significant effect on FMDV infectivity.96 FMDV can be found in the bone marrow, lymph nodes, and certain organs of deceased animals for extended periods of time because the pH does not decline sufficiently after death.97

1.5.1 Environmental Persistence of FMDV in Excretions and Surroundings

Under certain environmental conditions, FMDV can survive for significant periods on organic material. Reported survival times of FMDV include up to 20 weeks on hay, 4 weeks in cow’s hair in temperate temperatures, 14 days in dry feces, 39 days in urine, 6 months in slurry (winter), and 28 days in soil (fall).98 FMDV has also been recovered from bovine semen, and can maintain virus titers if frozen at −50 ºC for up to 320 days.99

1.5.2 Environmental Persistence of FMDV in Milk and Dairy Products

Raw milk and milk products have the potential to cause infection in animals if not properly treated. Even with a typical pasteurization process, milk and milk products can still be infective to naïve animals.100 Typical pasteurization processes do not activate FMDV.

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In milk, experiments have demonstrated that FMDV\(^{101}\)
- survived in skim milk after heating to 72 \(^{\circ}\)C for 2 minutes,
- survived in whole milk after heating to 72 \(^{\circ}\)C for 5 minutes, and
- survived in cream after heating to 93 \(^{\circ}\)C for 15 seconds.

Additionally, here are some examples of the experimental resistance of FMDV in cheese: \(^{102}\)
- Survived in Camembert cheese for 21 days at 2 \(^{\circ}\)C.
- Survived processing for Cheddar cheese prepared from heated milk (but 30 days of curing inactivated the virus).
- Survived processing and curing for Cheddar cheese prepared from unheated milk for 60 days.

FMDV can also survive in other products, such as butter and butter oil, for extended periods (at least 45 days with storage at 4 \(^{\circ}\)C). \(^{103}\) However, FMDV has not been detected in whey constituents after processing. \(^{104}\)

1.5.3 Environmental Persistence of FMDV in Meat and Meat Products

FMDV can maintain infectivity for months in chilled or frozen lymph nodes (beef), liver, and blood. FMDV was detected at 11 days in beef frozen after slaughter and at 4 months in frozen liver. \(^{105}\) In salted bacon, FMDV was detected at 190 days and in pork sausages at 56 days. \(^{106}\)

1.5.4 Environmental Persistence of FMDV in Wool and Hides

FMDV can survive on many materials. FMDV has been identified in wool 5-days post-exposure, but was not recovered at measureable amounts from wool stored at 37 \(^{\circ}\)C after 40–96 hours, or wool stored at 18 \(^{\circ}\)C after 10–14 days, based on the strain. \(^{107}\) In hides, FMDV has been detected for 32 days or longer, depending on the humidity and temperature of drying and storage. For example, hides salted and stored at 4 \(^{\circ}\)C still had detectable FMDV at 352 days; hides dried at 20 \(^{\circ}\)C, 40 percent relative humidity had detectable FMDV at 42 days. \(^{108}\)

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1.6 OIE Procedures for the Inactivation of FMDV

The following sections detail OIE recommended inactivation procedures for FMDV in various animal products. For details on products listed here, please see the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2019).109

1.6.1 Meat

Article 8.8.31 in the 2019 *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* provides the following procedures for the inactivation of FMDV in meat and meat products:

1. Canning
   
   Meat and meat products are subjected to heat treatment in a hermetically sealed container to reach an internal core temperature of at least 70 ºC for a minimum of 30 minutes or to any equivalent treatment which has been demonstrated to inactivate FMDV.

2. Thorough cooking
   
   Meat, previously deboned and defatted, and meat products are subjected to heat treatment so that an internal temperature of 70 ºC for a minimum of 30 minutes.
   
   After cooking, they should be packed and handled in such a way that it cannot be exposed to a source of FMDV.

3. Drying after salting
   
   When *rigor mortis* is complete, the meat must be deboned, salted with cooking salt (NaCl) and ‘completely dried’. It must not deteriorate at ambient temperature.
   
   ‘Completely dried’ is defined in terms of the ration between water and protein which must not be greater than 2.25:1 or a water activity (Aw) that is not greater than 0.85.

1.6.2 Wool and Hair

Article 8.8.32 in the 2019 *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* provides the following procedures for the inactivation of FMDV in wool and hair:

For the inactivation of viruses present in wool and hair for industrial use, one of the following procedures should be used:

1. industrial washing, which consists of the immersion of the wool in a series of baths of water, soap, and sodium hydroxide (soda) or potassium hydroxide (potash);

2. chemical depilation by means of slaked lime or sodium sulphide;

3. fumigation in formaldehyde in a hermetically sealed chamber for at least 24 hours;

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4. industrial scouring which consists of the immersion of wool in a water-soluble detergent held at 60–70 ºC;
5. storage of wool at 18 ºC for four weeks, or 4 ºC for four months or 37 ºC for eight days.

1.6.3 Milk and Cream for Human Consumption

Article 8.8.35 in the 2019 OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code provides the following procedures for the inactivation of FMDV in milk and cream for human consumption:

For the inactivation of FMDV present in milk and cream for human consumption, one of the following procedures should be used:

1. a process applying a minimum temperature of 132 ºC for at least one second (ultra-high temperature [UHT]), or
2. if the milk has a pH less than 7.0, a process applying a minimum temperature of 72 ºC for at least 15 seconds (high temperature-short time pasteurization [HTST]), or
3. if the milk has a pH of 7.0 or over, the HTST process applied twice.

1.6.4 Milk for Animal Consumption

Article 8.8.36 in the 2019 OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code provides the following procedures for the inactivation of FDMV in milk for animal consumption:

For the inactivation of FMDV present in milk for animal consumption, one of the following procedures should be used:

1. the HTST process applied twice; or
2. HTST combined with another physical treatment, e.g. maintaining a pH 6 for at least one hour or additional heating to at least 72 ºC combined with desiccation; or
3. UHT combined with another physical treatment referred to in point 2 above.
Attachment 1.A References and Selected Resources


# Attachment 1.B Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APHIS</td>
<td>Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFSPH</td>
<td>Center for Food Security and Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAD PReP</td>
<td>Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMD</td>
<td>foot-and-mouth disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMDV</td>
<td>foot-and-mouth disease virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTST</td>
<td>high temperature-short time (pasteurization)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAHEMS</td>
<td>National Animal Health Emergency Management System</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIE</td>
<td>World Organization for Animal Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>RNA</td>
<td>ribonucleic acid</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>South African Territories (serotypes of FMD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOP</td>
<td>standard operating procedure</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCID</td>
<td>tissue culture infectious dose</td>
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<tr>
<td>TDD</td>
<td>telecommunications device for the deaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>UHT</td>
<td>ultra-high temperature (pasteurization)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>United States Department of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAHID</td>
<td>World Animal Health Information Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAHIS</td>
<td>World Animal Health Information System</td>
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