



Bavarian State Ministry of the
Environment and Consumer Protection



Foot-and- mouth disease

Procedure for
diagnostic examinations
and in suspected cases



Bayerische
Landestierärztekammer
Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts



Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe

Help to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease!

There has been a clear increase in FMD cases in Europe this year. We require **your cooperation** to **protect our livestock** and to prevent the disease from spreading.

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Please support the farms you look after

Farmers must implement the **necessary biosecurity measures** in their business concepts to prevent the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease. The measures must always be adapted and expanded to suit the specific processes at the farms. As a practising veterinarian, you may also be brought in if anything is unclear.

► Differential diagnosis of foot-and-mouth disease – How to proceed:

1. Always observe the general **hygiene regulations** (clean work clothing, regular cleaning and disinfection, etc.).
2. Coordinate with the farm manager and record a **detailed medical history** (note differential diagnoses; occurrence of first symptoms etc.)
3. Always examine **several animals** from the herd. Document the condition of the animals and the localisation of changes.
4. Take **suitable samples** (saliva, nasal swabs, lesion material, serum) and send them to the LGL.
5. **Wash and disinfect** your hands afterwards.
6. You can then **continue your rounds**. **Clean and disinfect** used materials such as shoes etc.
7. Notify the competent veterinary office about the **diagnostic examination**.

► Serious suspicion of FMD – How to proceed:

1. **Keep calm.**
2. Make detailed enquiries with the farm manager and carefully record a **detailed medical history** (note any references to differential diagnoses; occurrence of first symptoms).
3. Always examine **several animals** from the herd to ascertain FMD symptoms. Document the condition and localisation of changes.
4. **Note findings** such as intact aphthae, ruptured aphthae with red base and clear demarcation, lesions with fibrin and marginal re-epithelialisation, incipient scarring, completed epithelial formation, lameness and salivation etc.
5. **Wash and disinfect your hands** afterwards with a virucidal hand sanitiser.
6. Contact the competent **veterinary office** and follow their instructions.
7. Make sure that you are **available** by telephone.
8. Do not request a colleague to join you on site. Only consult with them by telephone.
9. **Suspend your day rounds** and clarify with the responsible veterinary office whether you should wait at the farm or be available at home.
10. Only continue your work when you have received feedback from the competent veterinary office.
11. Keep a detailed list of farm visits, starting from the day before.
12. All work equipment that is no longer required must remain on the farm (for example, take photos of documents and then disinfect the mobile phone).
13. Perform **cleaning and disinfection measures**:
 - Shower and wash your clothes at > 60 °C.
 - Disinfect shoes and objects.
 - Use a suitable virucidal disinfectant (DVG-listed commercial product, e.g. with formic acid or peracetic acid), taking into account the concentrations and exposure times.
 - Disinfect your vehicle, especially the underside of the vehicle, the tyres up to the wheel arches and all around the vehicle. Pay attention to the manufacturer's instructions. Clean the washing area.

Additional information

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Community [bmleh.de](https://www.bmleh.de)

Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut [fli.de](https://www.fli.de)

Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority [lgl.bayern.de](https://www.lgl.bayern.de)

LGL image material for FMD symptoms:



Bavarian State Chamber of Veterinarians [bltk.de](https://www.bltk.de)

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe [fve.org](https://www.fve.org)

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