Private Veterinarians

Dear Colleagues,

Surveillance measures regarding the current foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in the suspended FMD Free Zone of Limpopo

We trust that this letter finds you well.

We would like to request your kind assistance with passive surveillance in relation to the current FMD outbreak in Limpopo Province. This will enable us to provide sufficient assurances to the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) that the rest of the country (outside of the FMD affected area) is free of FMD. This might negate the necessity of a countrywide active serological survey.

Any reports of suspect FMD cases that are followed up are valuable proof of a competent veterinary service and form an important part of passive surveillance. If you come across any suspect FMD cases (e.g. a farmer reports a suspicion to you, or you come across any clinical signs for which FMD is a differential diagnosis), please send us a brief report with all of the relevant information (even if it is found to be negative on clinical investigation).

The relevant information includes the location name, coordinates, species of animals, number of animals present, number of animals affected, reason for the suspicion/call, whether any clinical signs were then found or not, and what the conclusion/finding
following the visit was. Attached with this letter is a template that you may use for such reports if you choose to, but also please feel free to use any other format that you may prefer.

Such reports should please be sent to your local State Veterinarian, as well as to the Provincial Director and to FMD@daff.gov.za. Please refer to the following link for the contact details of your local and provincial State Veterinarians https://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/contacts/provincialveterinary

If you come across any cases that you believe may actually be due to FMD (i.e. you do not rule out FMD based on the clinical signs or other information), please contact the local state veterinarian as a matter of urgency. The state veterinarian will then perform the disease investigation and government will pay for the FMD tests if they are necessary. Please notify your local State Veterinarian, as well as the Provincial Director and FMD@daff.gov.za of any such cases as soon as possible.

Your assistance in the above matters is crucial and will be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

DIRECTOR: ANIMAL HEALTH
DATE: 2019-02-11