

## Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)

# Guidelines for biosecure entry-exit during a foot-and-mouth disease investigation



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### Biosecurity goals for your visit

- **Bring no infection onto the farm:** you should disinfect when entering the farm as well as when leaving it.
- **Prevent spread of infection** from one farm to another.

**Biosecurity** refers to all those measures aimed to prevent the introduction and spread of potentially harmful biological or biochemical substances to animals and people, and minimize the risk of disease transmission.

### Survival times of FMD virus in the environment

The amount of FMD virus on inanimate objects will decrease over time at an unpredictable rate.

#### The virus can survive up to:

- **Soil** (in hot conditions): 3 days.
- **Dry faeces:** 14 days.
- **Soil** (in cold conditions): 28 days.
- **Cow's hair** (at 19-20 degrees): 4 weeks.
- **Urine:** 39 days.
- **Hay/straw:** 20 weeks.
- **Slurry:** 6 months.

### The Three Key Principles of Biosecurity

#### Physical segregation

Maintain “clean” and “dirty” areas. Take as little equipment as possible into “dirty” areas.

#### Cleaning - removing contamination

Cleaning to remove contamination must take place before disinfection, as dirt and organic matter can shield the virus from disinfectants preventing them from being effective.

#### Disinfection

Killing any remaining virus.



## A Step by Step Approach to a Farm Visit Maintaining Biosecurity

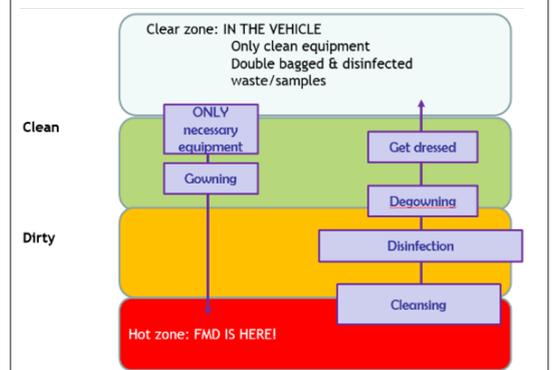
### 1. Before arriving on the premises

- Remove all unnecessary equipment from your vehicle.
- Segregate your vehicle into clean and dirty areas.
- Line both areas with plastic sheeting.



### 2. Setting up a disinfection point

- Park your vehicle away from any possible contamination.
- Should be in a clean, dry and level area, ideally on concrete- a gateway works well.
- Designate clean and dirty sides.
- An approved disinfectant must be used and mixed to the correct concentration.



### 3. Putting on protective clothing (Donning)

1. **Remove and leave all unessential items** in the vehicle.
2. **Put any electronic equipment into appropriate waterproof coverings** so that they can be used on farm and be disinfected before leaving the premises.
3. **Remove your shoes** and leave them on the clean side of the disinfection point.
4. **Put on the inner disposable biosecurity suit** followed by on an outer waterproof suit (if weather dictates).



5. **Put on boots.** Put legs of disposable suit inside boots while the waterproof suit goes over your boots. If only wearing a disposable suit this should go on the outside of the boots.
6. **Place shoe covers over boots,** ideally long plastic covers which cover the entire boot. The purpose of these is to reduce the time you need to spend cleaning the boots. Note that thick plastic boot covers are needed or they break easily.
7. **Two pairs of disposable gloves** need to be worn and the inner pair needs to be under and taped to the inner disposable biosecurity suit. The other glove goes over the top (not taped). The second glove can be changed freely if it becomes soiled or torn (it is useful to have many pairs of spare gloves).



#### 4. Removing protective clothing. (Doffing)

1. If possible use the farm's own facilities to **remove as much dirt as possible** from your person and equipment before coming to your disinfection point.
2. Ensure all **samples** are correctly cleaned, disinfected and packaged, following national guidelines.
3. Clean the **waterproof covering** enclosing the electronic equipment; first in the detergent and then with the disinfectant. All paper work must also be put into resealable bags and then disinfected.
4. Take off your **shoe covers**: place in bags you left on the dirty side of the disinfection point for disposal.
5. Clean your **boots**: roll up the outer layer of your waterproof suit and first use the detergent to remove all visible dirt. Make sure the **soles of your boots** are thoroughly cleaned - a screwdriver can help to remove dirt from the soles.

6. If wearing it, scrub your entire **outer waterproof** suit with detergent to remove all dirt.
7. Remove your **outer suit** (keep the inner suit on) and fully immerse it in the disinfectant on the dirty side.
8. Remove your **outer gloves**. Disinfect boots, inner gloves and inner suit.
9. Step onto **clean side of the disinfection point** and disinfect boots again.
10. Remove your biosecurity **suit** (you will need to remove the tape from your gloves first). Place the suit in a bag on the dirty side for disposal.
11. Remove your **inner gloves** using the same method as for your outer ones and place in a disposal bag on the dirty side.
12. Disinfect your **hands and glasses** (if worn) as well as your face using disinfectant wipes.
13. Your **equipment and samples** need to be double bagged and sealed with tape (see factsheet on sample collection for further information).
14. If you brought your own **buckets**, these also need to be disinfected and double bagged before being put into the car. If you used buckets provided by the farm (on the dirty side) these must be left on the farm.
15. All **bags and equipment** (including plastic sheets) on the dirty side should be left and disposed of on farm. All bags remaining on the clean side should be placed into the dirty area of your vehicle.



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## 5. Disinfecting the vehicle

- It is important to **disinfect your vehicle** before leaving the farm by applying the principles of cleaning and disinfection.
- Clean the exterior using a hose and sponge to remove all visible dirt, including the wheel arches and tyres.
- Spray the exterior of the vehicle with disinfectant.

## 6. After leaving the farm

- Take **samples and equipment** for processing/ disposal as soon as possible after your visit, being careful to avoid contact with clean equipment before further cleaning and disinfection.
- If you **do not own FMD susceptible animals**, you can return home and shower.
- Once you have disposed of all rubbish, clean the interior of the car.
- Wipe steering wheel, gearstick, pedals, handbrake, footwell etc with cloth dipped in disinfectant.
- All **clothes worn on the farm** should be immersed in disinfectant for 30 minutes and then washed at a high temperature (at least 60°C).
- If you **do own FMD susceptible animals**, you must not return home- the above must be done in another location.
- You must not visit any other premises with FMD susceptible animals for at least 3 days. (Check your national protocols for exact timing).



**Equipment category**  
**Biosecurity**

↙ Check box

Clothing	
Inner disposable biosecurity suit	
Outer waterproof biosecurity suit (if weather dictates)	
Rubber boots	
2 pairs of gloves	
Plastic boot coverings	
Cleaning and disinfection equipment	
Buckets for cleaning	
Detergent	
Approved disinfectant for FMD	
Brushes	
Wet wipes	
Screwdriver (to clean soles of boots)	
Sponge	
Additional equipment	
Plastic sheets	
Garbage bags	
Sticky tape	
Resealable bags (multiple sizes)	
Scissors	
Paper towels	

[fao.org/eufmd](http://fao.org/eufmd)

[eufmdlearning.works](http://eufmdlearning.works)

EuFMD activities and tools

[eufmd@fao.org](mailto:eufmd@fao.org)

**Move FAST**

Foot-and-mouth And Similar Transboundary animal diseases



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Sustainable Development Goals, UN-SDGs. EuFMD's programme focus



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