

Disease Management Plan Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) – Travel Risk Assessment & Mitigation

Date: 19 February 2026

Location:

Johannesburg to Winterton (KwaZulu-Natal), Sentinel Car Park, surrounding dams & Drakensberg access areas

Activity:

Passenger transport using Land Cruisers (tourism/environmental field visit)

1. Purpose of this document

This document provides a formal risk assessment and management plan regarding Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) for the planned visit to the Winterton/Drakensberg area, KwaZulu-Natal.

The purpose is to confirm regulatory compliance and to assess whether specific biosecurity measures (such as tyre disinfection protocols) are required for the planned activities.

2. Legislative & Regulatory Framework

FMD control in South Africa is regulated under:

- Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984)
- Veterinary movement control measures issued by the Department of Agriculture
- KwaZulu-Natal Disease Management Area (DMA) Movement Control Protocols (2025)

These measures primarily regulate:

- Movement of cloven-hoofed animals (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs)
- Animal products and raw animal materials
- Vehicles used as animal conveyances
- Entry/exit into declared Disease Management Areas

They do not regulate general passenger tourism travel that does not involve livestock or animal product transport.

3. Route & Activity Description

Travel Route

- Johannesburg → Winterton
- Sentinel Car Park
- Public access roads to dams and environmental field sites
- Drakensberg community access roads

Activities

- Transporting guests in passenger vehicles (Land Cruisers)
- Tourism and environmental field visits
- No intentional agricultural activities
- No intentional livestock handling
- No intentional farm visits
- No transport of meat, animal products, or animal-related equipment

Note: Cattle and goats may be encountered in communal grazing areas typical of the Drakensberg region. These encounters are incidental and unavoidable in rural landscapes; however, there will be no deliberate interaction with livestock, kraals, or farming operations.

4. Risk Assessment

4.1 Geographic Risk

The KwaZulu-Natal FMD Disease Management Area (DMA) defines specific controlled municipalities.

- Winterton (uThukela District) falls outside the declared DMA control zones.

Conclusion: The travel route occurs in a lower-risk, non-controlled area.

4.2 Activity-Based Risk

Activity	Risk Level
Transporting livestock	High
Visiting farms/kraals/feedlots	High
Handling animal products	High
Driving on public roads in rural areas	Very Low
Passing grazing cattle in community areas	Very Low
Passenger tourism activities	Negligible

The planned visit remains entirely within the very low to negligible risk category.

4.3 Vehicle Contamination Risk

Government disinfection requirements apply when a vehicle:

- Transports cloven-hoofed animals
- Transports animal products from a controlled area
- Functions as an animal conveyance
- Moves between controlled disease management zones with agricultural risk exposure

Our vehicles:

- Transport only people
- Do not enter livestock facilities
- Do not load agricultural materials
- Are not used for farming purposes

Therefore, mandatory tyre disinfection protocols are not required.

5. Management & Precautionary Measures

Although not legally required, precautionary best-practice measures will be followed.

Operational Controls

- No entry into kraals, dipping tanks, auctions, or feedlots
- No deliberate approach to livestock
- Maintain distance if animals are encountered on public roads
- Remain on established roads and access routes

Hygiene Precautions

- Avoid driving through manure accumulation where possible
- Remove visible mud/manure from tyres if encountered
- Basic hand hygiene after field activities

Compliance Measures

- Follow any official veterinary checkpoint instructions
- Monitor government advisories for changes
- No transport of meat or animal products between areas

6. Risk Conclusion

Considering:

- Travel outside the declared FMD Disease Management Area
- Non-agricultural nature of activities
- No livestock handling or product movement
- Only incidental exposure to grazing animals typical of rural areas
- Applicable South African veterinary regulations

The risk of FMD transmission associated with this visit is negligible.

Formal biosecurity interventions such as tyre disinfection protocols are not required under current regulations.

7. Statement to Client

The planned activities comply with South African veterinary disease control regulations. The visit does not involve livestock operations and presents no meaningful pathway for disease transmission. Practical precautionary measures will still be applied, and any official instructions encountered during travel will be followed.

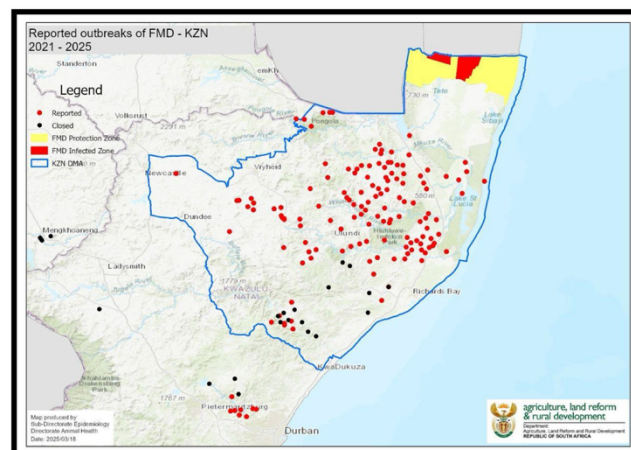
Overall conclusion: The trip presents no significant Foot and Mouth Disease risk.

8. Additional Voluntary Precautionary Measures

Although current South African regulations do not require vehicle disinfection for this itinerary, we will implement additional voluntary precautions to provide further reassurance and risk mitigation:

- Carry portable spray pumps and disinfectant solution in the support vehicles
- Spray tyres and lower vehicle panels at the end of operating days where rural travel occurred
- Rinse off visible soil or organic material when encountered
- Avoid parking near livestock congregation points where possible
- Encourage participants to avoid touching livestock if encountered
- Maintain basic hand sanitation practices after field activities

These measures exceed regulatory requirements and are implemented purely as a precautionary best-practice approach.



[MAP REFERENCE LINK](#)