



## INFORMATION NOTE:

### FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK CONFIRMED IN HUNGARY

#### Background

- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was confirmed in a herd of dairy cattle near Gyor in Hungary, close to the Slovakian border, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- FMD is **one of the most contagious diseases** that affects livestock, caused by the Foot and Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV)
- FMDV affects several species of animal inc. **cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, deer, and other cloven-hoofed animals** (i.e., animals with a divided hoof)
- The virus can be spread by:
  - **Direct contact** between infected and susceptible animals
  - **Indirect contact** between animals e.g., a contaminated person or vehicle moving between farms, sharing of equipment between farms, feeding of contaminated animal products to animals
  - **Airborne spread** i.e., when infected animals (especially pigs) exhale significant amount of virus in their breath and wind spread passes on the virus to animals in the surrounding area
- **Horses cannot get infected or sick from FMD**; however, they could play a **significant role in spread of the virus** should they be carrying it on themselves or their transport vehicles
- An outbreak of FMD would likely have **very serious consequences on Ireland's agricultural sector**, including the equine sector, as well as the economy as a whole
- **Ireland is currently free from Foot and Mouth disease, and all efforts must be made to ensure the disease does not break out in this country**

## Actions to Take to Help Keep FMD Out of Ireland

- All equine owners are strongly encouraged to **review and optimise their biosecurity protocols**, especially those who also have at-risk species for FMD on-site or in close proximity to them
- All horse owners are **strongly recommended to avoid bringing horses from Hungary or Slovakia into Ireland** whilst this FMD outbreak is ongoing, especially from farms that also have at-risk species for FMD on-site or in close proximity to them
- If there is an absolute need to move an equine animal from Hungary or Slovakia to Ireland, then additional care should be taken to **ensure a high level of cleanliness of both the animals and their transport vehicle**, both before leaving Hungary and Slovakia, and again at arrival at their final destination here in Ireland
- Please refer to [these guidelines](#) for a step-by-step guide on how to **correctly disinfect transport vehicles**
- Separately, if you intend to independently travel to a country that is affected by FMD, you should **exercise additional precaution before returning to Ireland**
- Please **familiarise yourself with this [guidance note](#)** on the steps that need to be taken prior to arriving back into the country
- For more information on FMD, please refer to the FMD page on the [gov.ie website](#)
- Please send any queries in relation to FMD to [ndcc@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:ndcc@agriculture.gov.ie)
- **REMEMBER: If you suspect FMD in an animal you are legally obliged to report it to the Dept. of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine**
  - Contact your [local Regional Veterinary Office](#) or the National Disease emergency Hotline on **01 492 8026** (outside of office hours) to report the suspect case
  - Do not allow people, animals, vehicles, carcasses, or anything else associated with animals off the farm until further advice has been given to you by the Dept. of Agriculture Food and the Marine

