

FORTNIGHTLY e-BULLETIN: ANIMAL DISEASE INFORMATION OF BHUTAN*Information sharing for preparedness and response...*

National Centre for Animal Health
Department of Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Serbithang, Thimphu



To update field colleagues and relevant stakeholders regarding animal disease situations in the country and related activities, the "Fortnightly e-Bulletin on Animal Disease Information of Bhutan" is issued by the Disease Prevention and Control Unit (DPCU), National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH), Department of Livestock (DoL). The information disseminated regarding animal disease outbreak(s) in the country is based on flash and follow-up reports received from the outbreak investigation team. For real-time update, please visit our website, <http://www.ncah.gov.bt>

Zhemgang Dzongkhag**Trong Gewog****FMD – 18 August 2021***

An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in cattle was reported from Dungbee village, Trong gewog, Zhemgang dzongkhag; the index case was reported to the Dzongkhag Veterinary Hospital and the Regional Livestock Development Centre (RLDC) on 16 August 2021, and confirmed by FMD-NSP antibody rapid test.

A detailed outbreak investigation was conducted on 17 August by a team led by the RLDC. As per the report shared, based on the lesion's age, the outbreak was found to have started around 27 July 2021. A total of four Jersey-cross cattle have been affected; however, no mortality was reported.

Since all the cattle in the village have received FMD vaccine during the annual vaccination campaign conducted in November 2020 and there was no recent history of introduction of non-vaccinated cattle, meat, or dairy products from other places, the outbreak was suspected to have spread from susceptible wild animals through direct or indirect mixing during forest grazing.

In line with the National FMD Prevention and Control Plan 2020, all the necessary measures have been implemented to control and prevent further spread of the infection.

Samtse Dzongkhag**Samtse Gewog****FMD – 26 August 2021***

Another outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) was reported from Cholikop village of Samtse gewog, Samtse dzongkhag on 26 August 2021. As per the flash report shared, the outbreak, which has started on 23 August 2021, has affected 3 cattle; no mortality was reported.

Since the affected cattle mix with cattle from Indian side during daytime grazing, the outbreak was suspected to have introduced by affected Indian cattle herds.

To control and prevent further spread of the disease, all the necessary measures have been implemented, as described in the National FMD Prevention and Control Plan 2020.

Over the last 8 months, January to August 2021, outbreaks of FMD was reported from some villages and gewogs under Chhukha, Samtse, Wangdue Phodrang, Thimphu, Paro and Zhemgang dzongkhags.

Early warning and preparedness to prevent LSD outbreaks

Considering the epidemiology of the Lumpy skin disease (LSD), the risk for incursion and spread remains high, especially in the areas stretching across the southern belt (Samtse in the west to Trashigang in the East), sharing a porous border with India, experiencing hot and humid climate and increased fly (mechanical vector for LSD) activity.

LSD prevention and control measures shall be implemented as described in the advisory table below.

Table 1: Advisory on Lumpy skin disease (LSD) prevention and control

Measures	Remarks
<i>Uninfected dzongkhag/ premises</i>	
Farm biosecurity enhancement	In collaboration with the BAFRA office.
Vector control	Use of insect repellents and ectoparasiticides, improve farm sanitation and hygiene, good manure management, etc.
Restriction on cattle (migratory or trade) and their products' movement from infected areas.	Practice until the ban is lifted in the affected and surrounding areas.
Enhance disease surveillance	To ensure early detection and prevent further spread. Surveillance is to be heightened during summer (fly season) and when outbreaks are reported from nearby areas.
Wearing minimal PPE when visiting farms	At least a shoe cover to prevent mechanical transmission.
<i>Infected dzongkhag/ premises or suspicion of disease presence</i>	
Restriction of movement of cattle and buffaloes in infected areas	Until the outbreak ends, and bans lifted.
Restriction of movement of cattle and buffalo products from infected to uninfected areas.	Until the outbreak ends, and bans lifted.
Isolation and treatment of affected animals.	Supportive or symptomatic treatment
Proper disposal (deep burial) of carcasses and	Consumption shall not be permitted.

disinfection of contaminated premises.	Phenol and Hypochlorite (bleaching powder) are effective against LSDV
Active surveillance	Risk-based surveillance for early detection, immediate interventions and prevent further spread.
Vector control	Use of insect repellents and ectoparasiticides, improve farm sanitation and hygiene, good manure management, etc.
Farm biosecurity enhancement	In collaboration with the BAFRA office.
Using PPE while visiting affected (suspected) farms	Plastic apron, gloves, shoe covers, etc.
Prevention of iatrogenic spread of infection	Mandatory change of needle between animals during vaccinations/ treatments, or sterilize the reusable needles.

** Reported to the National Centre for Animal Health, Serbithang*



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For comments or queries, e-mail to us at ncah2013@gmail.com

Our mailing address is:

National Centre for Animal Health
Department of Livestock
Serbithang, Thimphu. Post Box 155

Phone No. 00975-2-351083/351093. Fascimile No. 00975-2-351095

Toll Free No. 1244. Email: ncah2013@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.ncah.gov.bt/>

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