

Notification for Haulers

As soon as possible – at the first signs of an outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the U.S. – State Veterinarians or Commissioners of Agriculture, in cooperation with their Joint Information Center (JIC), should issue notifications like the following to haulers (regardless of their state of origin or destination) who stop in any of the six states to pick up milk from producers or to deliver raw milk to handlers or processors. Insofar as possible, phone contacts should be documented and followed up with notifications by email, fax, or post.

This call is being made to alert you about an animal disease emergency in the United States. An animal with symptoms resembling Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) has been identified in _____ . Officials have classified the symptoms as “highly suspicious.” They have collected samples which are in the process of being analyzed. Preparations for emergency response are urgently required. In particular, we need your cooperation to reduce the risk of spreading an extremely contagious disease and damage to dairy operations.

The State Veterinarians and Commissioners of Agriculture in New England have exercised their statutory responsibility and authority to protect livestock by ordering a stop to movement of all animals that are susceptible to FMD. Shipment of cloven-hoofed animals (e.g., cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats) is forbidden within, to, or from the six states, at least until the extent of infection is determined. Exceptions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances and for shipment to terminal sites. Producers and haulers are required to comply immediately with these controls on animal movement.

Furthermore, if links to FMD are found in New England itself, authorities will establish a Control Area in which movement of all products of susceptible animals – including raw milk – will also be subject to emergency controls. Shipments of unpasteurized milk within the Control Area will be forbidden unless high biosecurity standards are met and a Permit is issued by Incident Command.

These controls will remain in place until state and federal officials determine that the movement of susceptible animals or their products is safe. We will notify you officially when these controls are changed or revoked.

In the meantime, you are advised to prepare to meet the biosecurity standards that will be required if FMD threatens our region. In fact, to prevent the spread of disease, these standards are strongly recommended now, precisely to prevent infection and the need for yet more stringent controls.

If, despite precautions, FMD breaks in New England, a Permit to ship raw milk within, to or from a Control Area may be required and granted only if haulers meet the following requirements:

- Milk collection vehicles must have a Permit to pick up dairy products from specific, approved points in the Control Area.
- Haulers must carry or otherwise arrange to have on-hand supplies for disinfection. The recommended minimum includes:
 - Disposable gloves
 - Hand sanitizer and paper towels
 - Disposable or washable outerwear (coveralls, hat)
 - Rubber boots and disposable boot covers

- Disinfectant (bleach or other approved sanitizer)
- Long-handled scrub brush
- Rubber or plastic bucket for washing boots in disinfectant
- Trash bags
- The exterior of vehicles for collecting raw milk must be cleaned and disinfected both before and after pickup and before and after delivery.
 - Unless properly cleaned and disinfected, the milk tanker is not permitted to enter a farm premises. (The State Veterinarian or Commissioner of Agriculture will provide a list of producers from whom pickup is Permitted.)
 - At the processor, the plant's truck-washing procedures must be followed. (Expect delays.)
- Drivers must shower and change into clean clothes before beginning the route and after returning from the route (e.g., before leaving for home)
- Drivers must wash their hands and boots after collecting milk on each farm.
- Drivers must not come into direct or indirect contact with susceptible livestock, their facilities, products, and waste. Insofar as possible, avoid stepping out of trucks onto farm or plant property.
- If drivers cannot avoid stepping out of the truck on a dairy farm, they must wear sanitary protective clothing, boots and gloves. Sanitation must be preserved by one of two methods:
 - Disposable Method:
The driver will stop prior to entry on a farm and put on disposable coveralls, bouffant cap, boots, gloves, a respirator, and eye protection. The vehicle can then proceed to the farm pick-up point and collect milk. After milk is collected, the disposable outerwear must be removed and disposed of on the farm. All exposed skin and hands must be washed with an approved disinfectant. The last step prior to entering the vehicle is to spray the driver's footwear with an approved disinfectant.
 - Non Disposable Method:
A waterproof rain suit covering the entire body is required, including a waterproof hat, eye protection, rubber gloves and rubber boots with wide tread. On arrival at a farm pickup point, the driver must clean and disinfect boots and outer protective clothing with an approved disinfectant. Prior to leaving, the driver must again clean and disinfect boots and outer protective clothing with an approved disinfectant. All exposed skin must be cleaned and washed with an approved disinfectant. The protective clothing must again be disinfected at the time of removal. Disposable items such as gloves must be removed and disposed of on the farm.
- Milk haulers must bring their trucks back to a central location between routes. These dispatch sites must have facilities for drivers to change clothing and to shower. Trucks may not be kept on farms.
- The plant will be responsible for washing the pump and hose on the truck.
- Route-return milk must not be disposed of by feeding it to animals.
- Any vehicles that are determined to have collected infected milk will be investigated by a USDA-approved Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) in order to assess the risk of exposure to susceptible animals. The vehicles will be required to be decontaminated in-place and the milk will be treated and disposed of as directed by the State Veterinarian or Commissioner of Agriculture.

For further information you may call _____ or visit the website at _____.

If neighbors or the media ask what is going on, you are welcome to remind them that Foot-and-Mouth Disease is a health concern only for certain kinds of livestock – not for people. In particular:

- Consumers can continue to drink milk.
FMD does not significantly affect human health or food safety. It cannot be spread **to** humans, but it can be spread **by** humans.
Note: FMD is not related to “Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease” (HFMD) or “Mad Cow” Disease (BSE).
- Pasteurization of dairy products effectively eliminates Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus; so foods made with pasteurized milk or cheese remain safe.
Note: Consumers want more than assertions of safety. Knowledge that pasteurization effectively eliminates the FMD virus helps convince them that milk is safe to drink.
- Foot-and-Mouth Disease has never been transmitted from pasteurized dairy products to humans.
There is not a single case on record.
- Foot-and-Mouth Disease has been reported to affect human health only in very few, rare cases.
Human health effects are so rare that no major scientific or public health organization considers it a significant risk. Even in those very rare cases, the person who was supposedly affected had worked closely with FMD-infected livestock and recovered quickly.