



# USFK Safety Gram

## Bovine Foot and Mouth Disease



### What's the Issue?

South Korea has identified Bovine Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) at two dairy cow farms in Anseong approximately 30 km away from Humphreys Anjeongri Main gate. FMD is a viral disease that occurs periodically in South Korea. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (the Korean equivalent of our Department of Agriculture) is taking action to stop the outbreak and mitigate its spread.

### Can I contract FMD?

**NO.** Humans cannot contract FMD. There is no public health or food safety threat to Service Members and their Families. FMD cannot be contracted by humans who consume Korean beef, pork, or dairy products. There is no need to dispose of any food purchased from the Commissary or Korean stores, markets, or individuals including food previously purchased and stored in refrigerators or freezers. FMD affects cloven-hooved animals, such as cows, pigs, and goats, but does not affect dogs, cats, or other typical household pets. The similarly-named childhood disease, Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease, is not caused by FMD and there is no risk of an outbreak of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease due to the current situation.

### How do I prevent spreading FMD?

FMD does not affect humans or pets...only cloven-hooved animals. To prevent the spread of FMD from location to location among the animal population, people should avoid visiting dairy and cattle farms and the areas surrounding them. If people do travel to these areas, they should avoid contact with livestock, wash their hands frequently and thoroughly, and wash cloths and footwear after traveling to these areas.

### What is the South Korean Government Doing?

Local authorities have implemented quarantine measures in Anseong within 3 km of the affected farms. On January 28, 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs culled 120 cows at the farm where the disease originated. The Ministry reports 440,000 cows in Anseong, along with 1.39 million cows and pigs in neighboring cities and towns, will receive vaccinations as soon as possible to mitigate the outbreak before the Lunar New Year holiday, a time of increased travel by many South Koreans.

### Where can I find more information?

The USFK Surgeon's Office, in partnership with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Surgeon's Office and 65<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade, continues to monitor this situation and will provide updates as necessary. Additional information can be found at the following locations:

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

([https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/2013/fs\\_fmd\\_general.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2013/fs_fmd_general.pdf))

65<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade Preventive Medicine Office (DSN 315-737-1731)

USAG-Humphreys Veterinary Clinic (DSN 315-737-9815 or Commercial 050-3337-9815)

Care should be taken when searching for and interpreting online information concerning FMD obtained through search engines such as Google or Bing as the human disease (Hand, Foot, and Mouth) and FMD are often referred to by the same name.