

# African swine fever outbreak and surveillance update report

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agriculture, land reform  
& rural development

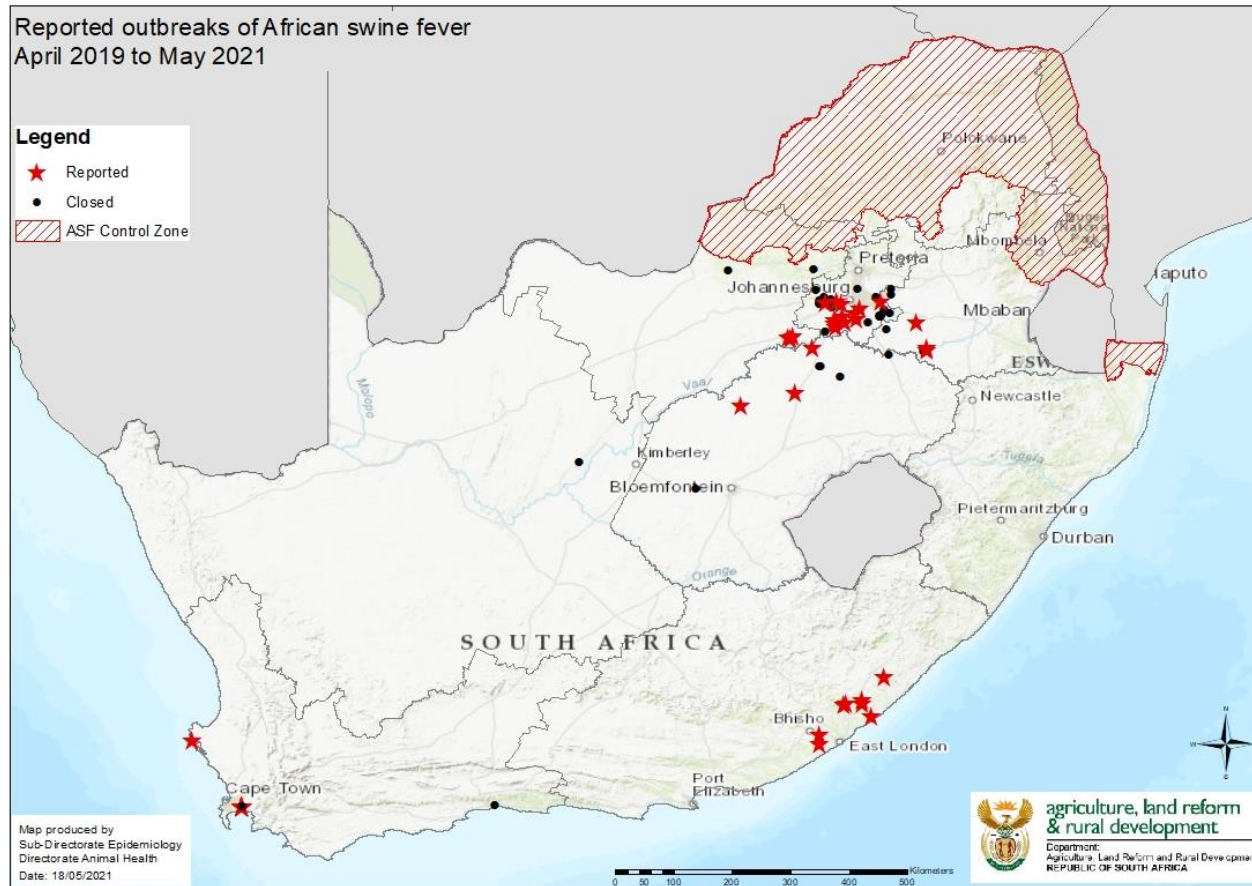
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Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Report compiled by:  
Directorate: Animal Health  
21 May 2021

# 1. Introduction and summary

Since April 2019 South Africa has reported eighty-four (84) outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) outside the ASF controlled area of South Africa (41 open and 43 resolved as reported to the OIE) and one outbreak inside the controlled area. Current open outbreaks are situated in Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West, Limpopo and Western Cape Provinces.



## Summary of outbreaks per province since April 2019:

Province	Number of open outbreaks	Number of resolved outbreaks	Total number of outbreaks	Last reported outbreak
Eastern Cape	8	0	8	26 February 2021
Free State	2	5	7	22 April 2021
Gauteng	13	22	35	14 May 2021
Limpopo	1	0	1	12 February 2021
Mpumalanga	3	5	8	22 July 2020
Northern Cape	0	1	1	11 September 2019
North West	3	2	5	16 March 2021
Western Cape	11	8	19	5 May 2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>84</b>	

## 2. Details of open outbreaks

### 2.1 Affected localities

#### Western Cape

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 the first outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) was reported in the Western Cape Province. Two small holding farms in Mfuleni, north of Khayelitsha were found positive for ASF, after laboratory testing was done on samples from dead pigs. A survey was initiated by Western Cape Veterinary Services to determine the extent of the disease spread and in total thus far 17 properties in Mfuleni have been affected as well as one in the Wilderness area and one in the Saldanha area.

Farmers were requested to assist by being vigilant and reporting any sudden illness and deaths in their pigs to the local State Veterinary office immediately so that swift action can be initiated to prevent further spread of this disease.

Further to this, restrictions have been placed on the sale and movement of live pigs from Mfuleni in order to limit the spread of the disease. Information on ASF has also been circulated in order to further educate pig owners on the disease and the importance of biosecurity to safeguard against infection. The origin of the outbreak is not yet known but epidemiological investigations are ongoing in this regard.

#### Eastern Cape

The first reported outbreak of ASF in the Eastern Cape was reported in the Amathole District in May 2020. Based on clinical surveillance and laboratory confirmation, two villages in the Butterworth area and three in the Centane area had outbreaks of ASF with another reported in August 2020. In October 2020 two further outbreaks were reported in the Eastern Cape,

one in the Komga area (Great Kei local municipality - not too far from the previous outbreaks) and another in the nearby Bongweni area (Buffalo City Metropolitan local municipality). The latest outbreak was reported in February 2021 in the Mqanduli area (King Sabata Dalindyebo local municipality). These outbreaks occurred in the free-roaming and smallholder pig sector and the original source of these outbreaks is still under investigation.

### Gauteng

Since October 2020 the Randfontein area has experienced numerous ASF outbreaks, with the original cases implicating pig trade at auctions as a probable source of infection. Further outbreaks were also reported from the Tembisa, Midvaal and Emfuleni areas. In Gauteng a wide variety of pig keepers have been affected, including informal, smallholder and commercial piggeries and pig traders.

Pig keepers in Gauteng are advised to be on high alert and practice strict biosecurity to prevent infection.

### Mpumalanga

In total eight outbreaks have been reported in Mpumalanga province in four local municipalities from April 2019 up until July 2020 and the initial outbreaks have been associated with auctions and trade in pigs, primarily affecting smallholder and informal pig keepers. The outbreaks in Victor Kanye and Dipaliseng local municipalities have been closed and open outbreaks remaining in Govan Mbeki and Lekwa local municipalities.

### North West

In North West the latest ASF outbreaks were reported in the Potchefstroom area from February 2021, the index case being a smallholder that experienced high pig mortalities. Subsequently two further farms have experienced outbreaks, including a commercial piggery. Investigations into the source and spread of these outbreaks are ongoing.

### Free State

In March 2021 an outbreak in the Wesselsbron area (Nala local municipality) of the Free State was reported in a communal pig project. There may have been contact with wild pigs but the source of infection is being investigated. In April 2021 two outbreaks were reported, one on a smallholder pig farm in the Parys (Heilbron) area in Ngwathe local municipality with other pig mortalities seen in the community and another in the Viljoenskroon (Kroonstad) area in Mqomoti local municipality after buying pigs from an auction.

## Limpopo

Within the ASF controlled area a single outbreak was also reported in a semi-intensive pig farm with some pigs kept free-range in the Thabazimbi area of Limpopo in February 2021 where contact with warthog is viewed as the probable source of infection.

### **2.2 Confirmation of diagnosis**

For all reported outbreaks, confirmation of disease was done by positive PCR on organ samples (in some cases whole blood samples) at the ARC Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Transboundary Animal Diseases laboratory (OVR-TAD).

### **2.3 Control measures implemented**

Control measures are based on quarantine and movement controls. Awareness drives highlighting essential biosecurity measures to enable pig owners to prevent infection of their pigs have been ongoing including the following recommendations:

- Confining pigs to prevent contact with other pigs or wildlife;
- Only buying pigs directly from healthy herds;
- Only feeding safe feed to pigs;
- Not allowing visitors contact with pigs;
- Before having contact with pigs, wash hands, only use clean clothes, shoes, equipment and vehicles (that have not been in contact with other pigs).

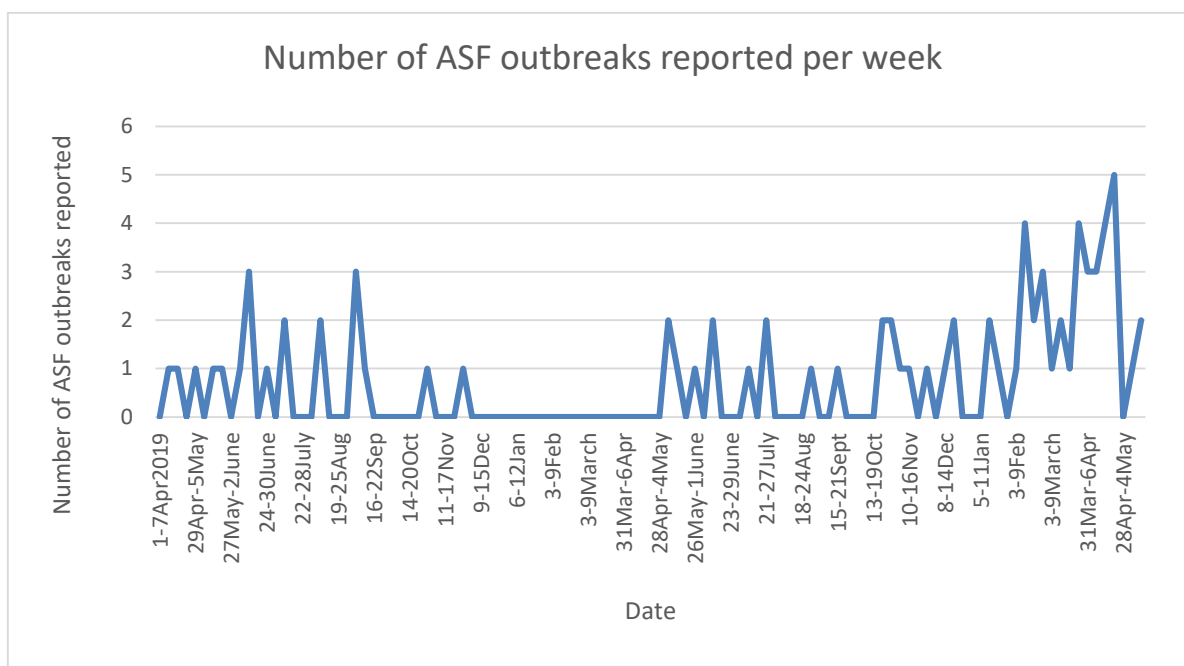
## **3. Epidemiology**

Most of the reported outbreaks have had the ASF virus sequenced. OVR-TAD has determined two genotypes involved:

Genotype I was isolated from outbreaks in North West, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Free State and Northern Cape.

Genotype II was isolated from outbreaks in North West, Gauteng, Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

The below figure shows the trend of ASF outbreaks reported per week since the first reported ASF outbreaks in 2019 in South Africa.



#### 4. Surveillance

Surveillance for ASF remains ongoing. All movements of pigs from infected properties and areas during the period prior to and following diagnosis are traced and any suspect disease outbreaks in pigs investigated. If suspect clinical signs are observed, samples are collected to confirm the diagnosis. Some serological surveillance has also been undertaken in surrounding areas from clinically healthy animals.

The following is a summary of surveillance done on pig keeping properties, including follow up investigations of suspect pig herds with negative results:

Province	Number of properties visited and sampled	Number of samples collected
North West	91	353
Mpumalanga	50	195
Gauteng	41	116
Free State	15	22
KwaZulu-Natal	12	14
Northern Cape	2	43

<b>Limpopo</b>	7	40
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	40	207
<b>Western Cape</b>	16	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1011</b>

Director Animal Health