

Lumpy skin disease

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects cattle and buffalo. Australia is free from the disease.

What are the signs of LSD?

Clinical signs include:

- firm, raised nodules up to 50 mm in diameter around the head, neck, genitals and limbs. The centre of the nodules die leaving scabs. When the scabs fall off, large holes are left which may become infected and are prone to flystrike.
- swollen limbs, brisket and genitals
- fever, watery eyes, loss of appetite, and a reluctance to move
- pneumonia, which is often fatal.

Death rates in infected cattle are usually around 1-5% but have been reported to be as high as 75%.

How does LSD spread?

Lumpy skin disease is predominantly spread by biting insects including:

- flies
- mosquitoes
- ticks.

The disease can also be spread by direct animal-to-animal contact as well as contaminated equipment and clothing.

What do I do if I suspect LSD?

LSD is a notifiable disease. If you suspect the disease in your animals, you must report it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 or to your local vet.



Photos: Animal Health Australia