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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (47): ANIMAL, POLAND (POMORSKIE) MINK, OIE

A ProMED-mail post

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Date: Mon 1 Feb 2021

Source: Reuters [edited]

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-poland-mink/poland-finds-first-case-of-covid-19-in-mink-idUSL8N2K72AQ>

Poland has found its 1st case of COVID-19 in mink, the agriculture ministry said, raising fears of costly culls in an industry that counts over 350 farms in the country. With new variants of the coronavirus threatening global efforts to get the pandemic under control, authorities in several countries have begun mass culls of the animals due to fears of a mutated strain of the illness being transmitted to humans.

Late on Sunday [31 Jan 2021] the ministry said it had been informed by veterinary inspectors on Saturday [30 Jan 2021] of a case in Kartuzy county in northern Poland. "I hope this is a single case, although we must take all measures to limit possible transmission of the virus," deputy health minister Waldemar Kraska told local broadcaster Radio Gdansk on Monday [1 Feb 2021], adding that all mink at the affected farm would be culled.

Denmark, the world's top exporter of mink furs, ordered a cull of the country's entire population of some 17 million mink in 2020, and in January [2021] announced it would compensate farmers with up to DKK 19 billion (USD 3.09 billion).

In a statement sent to state-run news agency PAP, representatives of the Polish fur industry said the state was not offering any compensation for culled animals, and that they would launch a class action lawsuit demanding damages. The agriculture ministry did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

The Medical University of Gdansk said on 24 Nov [2020] it had found 8 cases of COVID-19 in mink at a farm in northern Poland [see comment], but veterinary inspectors later said there was no evidence of infection at the farm.

Poland is one of the world's top producers of mink fur, with 354 farms, containing around 6 million mink. (USD 1 = DKK 6.1444)

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[Information on the event suspected by a university laboratory as the 1st COVID-19 infection in Polish minks, published by the media, was included in 20201127.7976927 (<https://www.euronews.com/2020/11/24/polish-scientists-identify-first-cases-of-covid-19-at-a-mink-farm>). The same posting included another report from the same media source, addressing the 1st COVID-19 mink infection in Poland's neighbor, Lithuania. In difference from Poland, where the media-sourced information was not confirmed by the authorities, Lithuania confirmed the information, officially notifying the OIE (20201203.7986508).

The current event in Poland, described in the above Reuters report, has now been officially reported to the OIE; see an immediate notification, including a map, submitted Wed 3 Feb 2021, at https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=38036.

The given location of the affected mink farm, which includes 5845 animals, is Lezno, Zukowo, Kartuski [Kartuzy] county, in the northern province of Pomorskie (map at <tinyurl.com/1dnpbljr>). The farm is situated about 95 km [59 mi] from the Russian territory Kaliningrad and 285 km [177 mi] from the Lithuanian border. Further data from the OIE notification follows:

- Date of start of the outbreak: 27 Jan 2021
- Affected population: At the mink farm, nasopharyngeal swabs were collected from 20 mink; 4 animals were positive in RT-PCR. No clinical cases.
- Epidemiological comments: The samples were collected as a part of active monitoring, in accordance with applicable national regulations.

It may be assumed that this event reflects a human-to-animal infection, as seen in the 1st cases in all other countries that have reported COVID-19 in their respective farmed mink.

The Netherlands was the 1st country to apply systematic surveillance in farmed minks shortly after the detection of the 1st human-to-mink infection in North Brabant, late April 2020. Since then, COVID-19 continued its spread in the Dutch farmed mink while closely being monitored and studied, with findings published and shared continuously internationally. The later discovery of animal-to-human cases, caused by a mink-sourced mutation, led to a decision to terminate mink farming in the Netherlands. A similar disease history and outcome took place later in Denmark. Other countries that have reported COVID-19 in minks are Canada, France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Spain, Sweden, and USA, to which Poland has now been officially been added. There are other countries known to maintain a considerable mink farming industry, such as China, Finland, and Russia. Details on surveillance activities undertaken in minks of these countries have not become available. - Mod.AS

HealthMap/ProMED map of Poland: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8162830,113>]

See Also

COVID-19 update (39): animal, Spain, Switzerland, mink, cat, OIE 20210129.8146532
2020

COVID-19 update (549): animal, mink, Denmark, erad. Russia, vaccine, China, RFI 20201222.8039549

COVID-19 update (546): animal, Sweden, mink, surveillance, spread, control, RFI 20201220.8033896

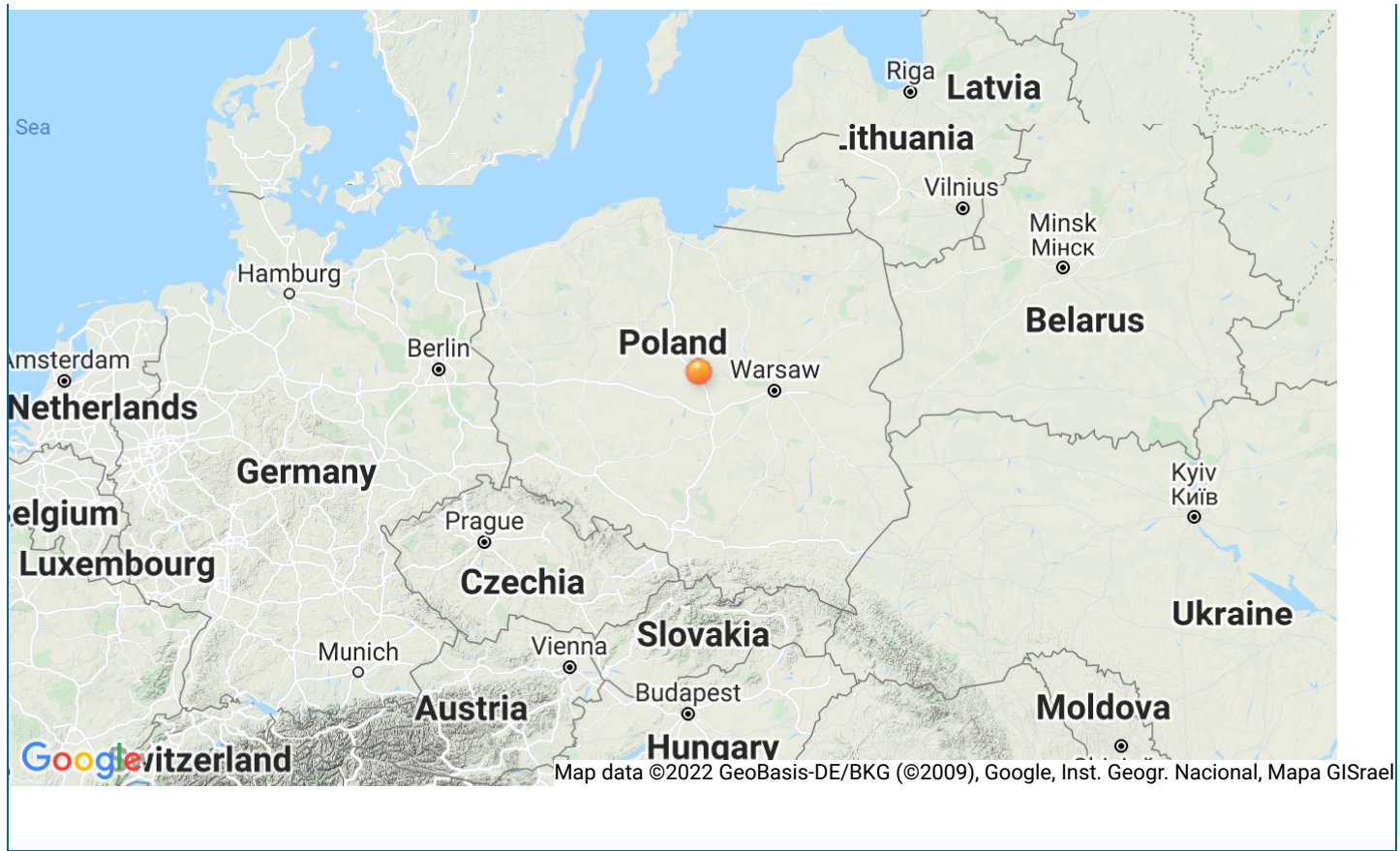
COVID-19 update (542): animal, Greece (EM) mink mutation, human, OIE 20201218.8027113

COVID-19 update (536): animal, USA (UT) wild mink, 1st case 20201213.8015608

COVID-19 update (535): Denmark, animal, mink, zoonotic, cat, RFI 20201213.8015149

COVID-19 update (530): animal, mink, research, experimental infection, vaccine 20201210.8009205

COVID-19 update (531): animal, Canada (BC) mink, OIE 20201210.8008864
COVID-19 update (527): animal, Greece (WM) mink, spread, genome analysis 20201208.8002636
COVID-19 update (526): Canada (BC) animal, mink, human 20201208.8002622
COVID-19 update (520): Denmark, Netherlands, mink, human-animal interface, WHO 20201204.7994061
COVID-19 update (516): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, Lithuania, mink, OIE 20201203.7986508
COVID-19 update (510): animal, mink, Lithuania, Poland, 1st reports, France, OIE 20201127.7976927
COVID-19 update (507): animal, mink, Netherlands spread, Italy control 20201125.7972425
COVID-19 update (503): animal, France, mink, 1st rep 20201123.7965554
COVID-19 update (501): Denmark, Netherlands, mink, human-animal interface 20201122.7963766
COVID-19 update (498): Denmark, animal, mink, zoonotic 20201120.7959431
COVID-19 update (490): animal, Greece (EM) mink, 1st report, OIE, assessment 20201115.7944705
COVID-19 update (487): Denmark, animal, mink, zoonotic, risk assessment ECDC 20201112.7939110
COVID-19 update (482): animal, Denmark, mink, zoonotic, eradication, discussed 20201109.7929573
COVID-19 update (477): animal, Sweden, mink, spread, genotyping 20201107.7924269
COVID-19 update (475): animal, Denmark, mink, spike protein sequences 20201106.7922587
COVID-19 update (473): animal, Denmark, mink, mutation, eradication, RFI 20201105.7918210
COVID-19 update (471): animal, Denmark, mink, zoonotic, eradication 20201104.7916300
COVID-19 update (468): animal, Sweden, mink, 1st rep, OIE 20201103.7912846
COVID-19 update (464): animal, Denmark, mink, control, One Health 20201101.7906484
COVID-19 update (461): animal, Sweden, mink, 1st rep, RFI 20201030.7903582
COVID-19 update (458): animal, Italy, mink, RFI 20201028.7897986
COVID-19 update (445): animal, Netherlands, Denmark, mink, spread, epidemiology 20201019.7873326
COVID-19 update (439): animal, Denmark, mink, spread, control 20201014.7861560
COVID-19 update (414): animal, Netherlands (LI), Denmark (ND), farm mink, spread 20200925.7813579
COVID-19 update (401): Netherlands (NB), Denmark, farmed mink, spread 20200914.7777661
COVID-19 update (394): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread 20200908.7759382
COVID-19 update (387): Netherlands, mink, animal & public health, research 20200902.7740793
COVID-19 update (376): animal, ferret, mink, comment 20200827.7721923
COVID-19 update (366): animal, USA (UT) mink 20200818.7692815
COVID-19 update (363): animal, Denmark (ND) Netherlands (NB,LI) mink, spread 20200817.7687830
COVID-19 update (340): animal, China, enviro monitoring, Netherlands (NB), mink 20200801.7635820
COVID-19 update (334): animal, Netherlands, mink, spread, UK, cat, 1st rep, OIE 20200727.7617582
COVID-19 update (324): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread 20200719.7591013
COVID-19 update (307): Netherlands (NB), Denmark (ND) farmed mink, spread, control 20200708.7553067
COVID-19 update (301): Denmark (ND) Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, spread, control 20200703.7536980
COVID-19 update (281): Netherlands (NB, LI) farmed mink, spread, animal, global 20200623.7502849
COVID-19 update (266): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, 1st rep 20200617.7479510
COVID-19 update (251): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, culling 20200610.7453845
COVID-19 update (248): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, mink, spread, culling, cat 20200609.7446478
COVID-19 update (236): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, culling 20200604.7427849
COVID-19 update (215): Netherlands (NB) animal, mink-to-human, epidem., control 20200527.7385049
COVID-19 update (209): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human, cat, epid 20200525.7375359
COVID-19 update (198): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human infect susp 20200520.7359976
COVID-19 update (189): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research, cat, dog 20200517.7344274
COVID-19 update (177): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, Spain (CT) cat susp 20200512.7328587
COVID-19 update (174): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, comment 20200511.7323845
COVID-19 update (154): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research 20200503.7294846
COVID-19 update (146): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, epidemiology 20200501.7286113
COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink 20200427.7272289
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