



Published Date: 2020-07-24 20:18:43 CEST

Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (330): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, OIE

Archive Number: 20200724.7609215

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (330): CHINA (HONG KONG) ANIMAL, CAT, OIE

A ProMED-mail post

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International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org>

Date: Fri 24 Jul 2020

Source: OIE WAHID [edited]

https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=35169

COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2), Hong Kong (SAR-PRC)

Information received on [and dated] 24 Jul 2020 from Dr. Thomas Sit, Chief Veterinary Officer/Assistant Director (Inspection & Quarantine), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR-PRC)

Summary

Report type: Immediate notification

Date of start of the event: 21 Jul 2020

Date of confirmation of the event: 23 Jul 2020

Report date: 24 Jul 2020

Date submitted to OIE: 24 Jul 2020

Reason for notification: Emerging disease

Morbidity: 1 (scale 0 to 5)

Mortality: 0 (scale 0 to 5)

Zoonotic impact: Zoonotic potential unknown at this time

Causal agent: SARS-CoV-2

New outbreaks (1)

Summary of outbreaks:

Total outbreaks: 1

Outbreak location: Sheung Wan, Central and Western District, Hong Kong

Date of start of the outbreak: 21 Jul 2020

Outbreak status: Continuing (or date resolved not provided)

Epidemiological unit: Other

Total animals affected:

Species / Susceptible / Cases / Deaths / Killed and disposed of / Slaughtered

Cats / 1 / 1 / 0 / 0 / 0

Affected population: A cat kept in the same household as a confirmed COVID-19 patient. The animal did not show any relevant clinical signs.

Outbreak statistics [rates apparent, expressed as percentages]

Species / Morbidity rate / Mortality rate / Case fatality rate / Proportion susceptible animals lost*

Cats / 100 / 0 / 0 / 0

*Removed from the susceptible population through death, destruction, and/or slaughter

Epidemiology

Source of the outbreak(s) or origin of infection: Likely human-to-animal transmission.

Epidemiological comments: The cat was placed under quarantine on 21 Jul 2020 after confirmation of a human case from the same household. Following veterinary examination, nasal, oral and rectal swab samples were taken after the cat's admission to the quarantine facility. The oral sample was tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. The cat has not exhibited any specific clinical signs. Investigations are continuing to determine the duration of virus detection. Risk management measures are in place for this case, including cleansing and disinfection of the premises, and proper personal hygiene and protection. Mammalian pets from household with confirmed human cases will be collected for testing of SARS-CoV-2 as appropriate.

Control measures

Measures applied: Screening; traceability; quarantine; disinfection; vaccination permitted (if a vaccine exists); no treatment of affected animals

Measures to be applied: No other measures

Diagnostic test results

Laboratory name and type / Species / Test / Test date / Result

Tai Lung Veterinary Laboratory, Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department (national laboratory) / Cat / Real-time reverse transcriptase/polymerase chain reaction (RRT-PCR) / 21 Jul 2020 / Positive

School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong (regional reference laboratory) / Cat / RRT-PCR / 23 Jul 2020 / Positive

Future reporting

The event is continuing. Weekly follow-up reports will be submitted.

[The location of the outbreak can be seen on the interactive map included in the OIE report at the source URL above.]

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["SARS-CoV-2 is an emerging disease which means, as defined by the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 'a new occurrence in an animal of a disease, infection or infestation, causing a significant impact on animal or public health resulting from:

1. a change of a known pathogenic agent or its spread to a new geographic area or species; or
2. a previously unrecognized pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time.'

OIE Members are required to notify the OIE of the detection of an emerging disease as set out in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code." Source: https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/A_Reporting_SARS-CoV-2_to_the_OIE.pdf

"Now that SARS-CoV-2 infections are widely distributed in the human population, there is a possibility for certain animal species

to become infected through close contact with infected humans. Infection of animals with SARS-CoV-2 may have implications for animal and human health, animal welfare, for wildlife conservation, and for biomedical research.

"Cats (domestic and large cats), mink, and dogs have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 in the field setting, following contact with humans known or suspected to be infected with SARS-CoV-2. In the field setting, cats have shown clinical signs of disease including respiratory and gastrointestinal signs. SARS-CoV-2 infection in farmed mink has been characterized by respiratory disease and an increased mortality rate.

"Although several animal species have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, these infections are not a driver of the COVID-19 pandemic; the pandemic is driven by human-to-human transmission.

"Further information about these events, which have reported to the OIE, can be found below on the page 'Events in Animals' (see <https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019novel-coronavirus/events-in-animals/>).

"Studies are underway to better understand the susceptibility of different animal species to SARS-CoV-2 and to assess infection dynamics in susceptible animal species. To date, findings from experimental infection studies suggest that poultry and pigs are not susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

"Findings from laboratory studies suggest that, of the animal species investigated so far, cats are the most susceptible species for SARS-CoV-2, and cats can be affected with clinical disease. In an experimental laboratory setting, cats were able to transmit infection to other cats. In the laboratory setting, ferrets were susceptible to infection and able to transmit infection to other ferrets, although they appear to be less affected by clinical disease. Ferrets might serve as a useful model for future studies, e.g., to evaluate vaccines or therapeutics. Golden Syrian hamsters, as well as cynomolgus and rhesus macaques can be consistently infected with SARS-CoV-2 and may show clinical signs. Dogs appear to be susceptible to infection but appear to be less affected than ferrets or cats. Egyptian fruit bats were also infected in the laboratory setting but did not show signs of disease. The infected fruit bats were able to transmit infection to other fruit bats." Source: OIE's Questions and Answers information on COVID-19, last updated 9 Jun 2020 <https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019novel-coronavirus/>

"People who are suspected or confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2 should restrict contact with mammalian animals, including pets, just like they would with people during their illness.

"Animals suspected or confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2 should remain separated from other animals and humans." Source: Technical factsheet on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in animals, available at https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/A_Factsheet_SARS-CoV-2_1_.pdf. - Mod.CRD

HealthMap/ProMED-mail map:

Hong Kong: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7609215,198>

See Also

COVID-19 update (319): Spain (AR) animal, farmed mink, 1st rep 20200717.7584560

COVID-19 update (317): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread 20200716.7578453

COVID-19 update (322): USA (SC) animal, dog 20200719.7588843

COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission 20200711.7565035

COVID-19 update (308): USA (TX) animal, dog conf. 20200708.7554832

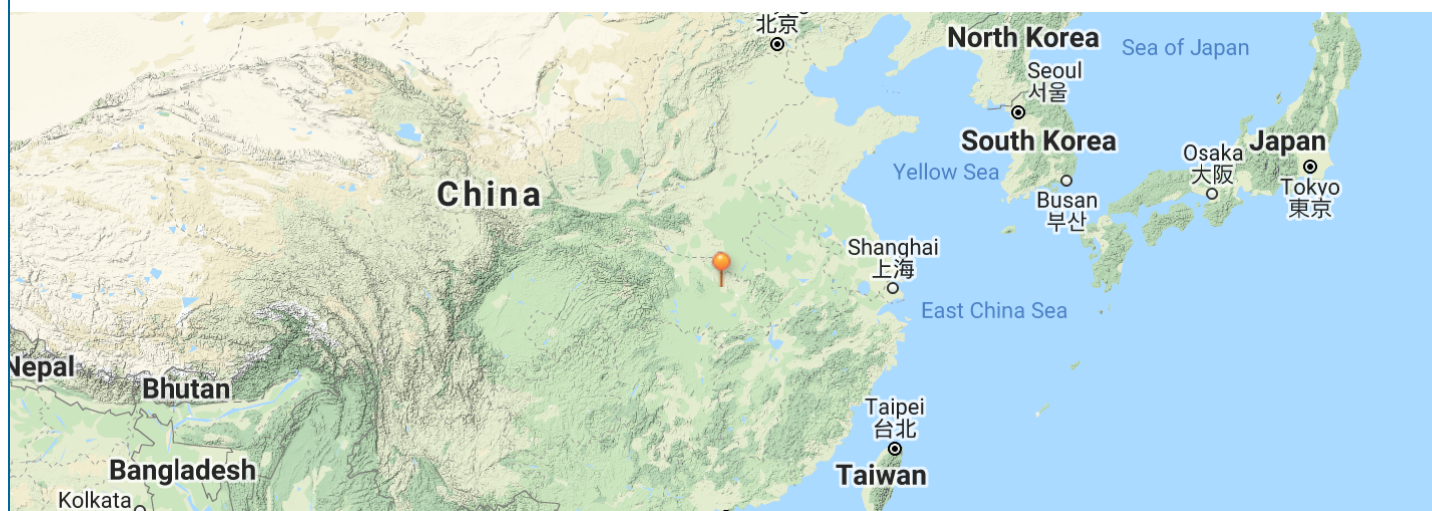
COVID-19 update (299): USA (GA) animal, dog conf 20200703.7535112

COVID-19 update (267): animal, domestic, wild, cat, research 20200617.7480013

COVID-19 update (248): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, mink, spread, culling, cat 20200609.7446478

COVID-19 update (238): USA (MN) animal, cat 20200605.7429133
COVID-19 update (227): animal, cat, dog, research, experimental infection 20200601.7416648
COVID-19 update (215): Netherlands (NB) animal, mink-to-human, epidem., control 20200527.7385049
COVID-19 update (212): Russia (Moskva) animal, cat, OIE 20200526.7379578
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 (183): Japan/USA, animal, research, cat, experimental infection 20200514.7337185
COVID-19 update (181): Germany (BY), France (AC), cat, OIE animal case definition 20200513.7332909
COVID-19 update (166): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, OIE, resolved 20200508.7314521
COVID-19 update (154): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research 20200503.7294846
COVID-19 update (149): France (IF) animal, cat, owned 20200501.7289409
COVID-19 update (146): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, epidemiology 20200501.7286113
COVID-19 update (143): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, tests 20200430.7284183
COVID-19 update (141): India, animal, wild tiger, susp, clarification, RFI 20200430.7281768
COVID-19 update (138): India, animal, wild tiger, fatal 20200428.7275765
COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink 20200427.7272289
COVID-19 update (130): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, new cases 20200425.7266556
COVID-19 update (124): USA (NY) animal, cat, lion, OIE 20200423.7259119
COVID-19 update (123): USA (NY) animal, cat, conf 20200422.7256272
COVID-19 update (113): USA (NY) cat, animal, susp, RFI 20200418.7240811
COVID-19 update (88): Germany, animal, research, pig, chicken, bat, ferret 20200407.7196506
COVID-19 update (85): USA (NY) animal, tiger, OIE 20200406.7191480
COVID-19 update (84): USA animal, tiger 20200406.7191352
COVID-19 update (76): China (HU) animal, cat, owned, stray, seropositive 20200403.7179946
COVID-19 update (75): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, OIE 20200403.7179945
COVID-19 update (70): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, pets & stock 20200402.7173286
COVID-19 update (58): Belgium, animal, cat, clinical case, RFI 20200327.7151215
COVID-19 update (56): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, final serology positive 20200326.7146438
COVID-19 update (50): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR positive, OIE 20200323.7129951
COVID-19 update (45): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR positive 20200319.7112693
COVID-19 update (37): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, prelim. serology negative 20200312.7081842
COVID-19 update (30): China (Hong Kong)
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