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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (92): animal, Canada, wild deer

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (92): ANIMAL, CANADA, WILD DEER

A ProMED-mail post

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International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org>

Date: Thu 7 Apr 2022 10:49 EDT

Source: CTV News Atlantic [edited]

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/covid-19-confirmed-in-deer-in-new-brunswick-first-case-in-an-animal-in-atlantic-canada-1.5852225>

Environment Canada has confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in an animal in Atlantic Canada. The federal agency says the virus was detected in a free-ranging white-tailed deer in the Saint John region of New Brunswick.

Environment Canada has reported 56 cases of COVID-19 involving animals, including 13 pets, 40 wild animals and 3 mink farms, in 6 different provinces since the start of the pandemic. Most cases have been reported in white-tailed deer and cats. A dog in Ontario and 3 mink farms in British Columbia have also been affected by the virus during the pandemic.

Environment Canada has broken down confirmed COVID-19 cases in animals by province in an online dashboard:

- British Columbia: 4 pets, 3 mink farms and 12 wild animals
- Saskatchewan: 4 wild animals
- Manitoba: 3 wild animals
- Ontario: 5 pets and 17 wild animals
- Quebec: 4 pets and 3 wild animals
- New Brunswick: 1 wild animal

While animals can be infected with COVID-19, Environment Canada noted it remains "largely a disease of human concern" that "typically spreads from human to human".

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[White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is the cervid most widely distributed east of the Rocky mountains. The ACE2 receptor (where SARS-CoV-2 binds to enter the cell) of white-tailed deer is very similar to that of humans, and it was experimentally proven

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that after intranasal inoculation, deer become infected by SARS-CoV-2, shed the virus and transmit it to non-inoculated contact deer. Later on, many wild white-tailed deer populations across USA and Canada were found infected at high prevalences with several SARS-CoV-2 variants. These consistent findings strongly suggest that following introduction of SARS-CoV-2 from humans, transmission is occurring among deer in the wild at a rate which makes deer populations a suitable compartment where the virus may be maintained and evolve, and then perhaps spill back to humans or other animals as a new variant, as suggested recently by molecular evidence. - Mod.PMB

ProMED map of Canada: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8702494,12.>]

See Also

- COVID-19 update (83): animal, USA, mule deer 20220329.8702286
- COVID-19 update (80): animal, USA, deer, transmission 20220325.8702212
- COVID-19 update (63): animal, Canada, wild deer 20220303.8701773
- COVID-19 update (43): animal, USA, wild deer, omicron 20220209.8701357
- 2021
-
- COVID-19 update (451): animal, USA, wild deer 20211230.8700589
- COVID-19 update (413): animal, Canada, wild deer 20211202.8700020
- COVID-19 update (373): animal, USA, wild deer, transmission 20211102.8699412
- COVID-19 update (260): animal, USA, wild deer, exposure, RFI 20210729.8554149
- COVID-19 update (20): animal, deer, experimental infection 20210116.8108967
- 2020
-
- COVID-19 update (536): animal, USA (UT) wild mink, 1st case 20201213.8015608
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