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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (536): animal, USA (UT) wild mink, 1st case

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (536): ANIMAL, USA (UTAH) WILD MINK, FIRST CASE

A ProMED-mail post

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From: Thomas DeLiberto <Thomas.J.DeLiberto@usda.gov> [edited]

The USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has confirmed SARS-CoV-2 by real time RT-PCR and sequencing of a nasal swab collected from a free-ranging, wild mink sampled in Utah. To our knowledge, this is the 1st free-ranging, native wild animal confirmed with SARS-CoV-2.

APHIS has notified the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of this detection in a wild mink as part of the epidemiological study in the surrounding area of the infected farm.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service conducted wildlife surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in meso-carnivores and other species around infected mink farms in Utah, Michigan, and Wisconsin, USA between 24 Aug-30 Oct 2020. Surveillance was conducted as part of One Health investigations involving the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Geological Survey, and State Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Health.

There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is circulating or has been established in wild populations surrounding the infected mink farms. Several animals from different wildlife species were sampled, but all others tested negative.

The sequence of the viral genome obtained from the wild mink sample at NVSL was indistinguishable from those obtained from the farmed mink.

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[The American mink (*Neovison vison*) is a semiaquatic species of mustelid native to North America; certain selected strains of

this species have been bred for mink farms, which have been established, during the 20th century, mainly in Europe, North and South America, and Asia (predominantly China) for the fur industry.

The high susceptibility of this mustelid species to SARS-CoV-2 has become apparent in mink farming countries; most outbreaks reported so far are from Denmark, Netherlands, and USA. This susceptibility has also been demonstrated experimentally (20201210.8009205).

Though escapees from fur farms are known to have become self-sustaining in some countries, so far, no COVID-19 cases have been reported from such animals.

To prevent the potential establishment of a virus reservoir, efforts to prevent SARS-CoV-2 introduction into and spread within the large North American wild mink population, as well as elsewhere, are warranted. - Mod.AS

HealthMap/ProMED map:

Utah, United States: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8015608,246>

See Also

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 (527): animal, Greece (WM) mink, spread, genome analysis 20201208.8002636
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 (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 (464): animal, Denmark, mink, control, One Health 20201101.7906484
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 (406): animal, Netherlands (LI), Denmark (ND), farm mink, spread 20200918.7794239
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 (382): Netherlands, animal, farmed mink, spread, control 20200830.7730463
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 (317): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread 20200716.7578453

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 (284): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, spread, dog 20200624.7506728

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 (230): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, control 20200602.7420433

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 (169): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread, rabbit susp 20200509.7316646

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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