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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (62): animal, Latvia (RA) cat, OIE

Archive Number: 20210212.8187389

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (62): ANIMAL, LATVIA (RIGA) CAT, OIE

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A ProMED-mail post

<http://www.promedmail.org>

ProMED-mail is a program of the

International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org>

Date: Wed 10 Feb 2021

Source: OIE, WAHID (World Animal Health Information Database) [edited]

[https://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page\\_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=38195](https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=38195)

SARS-CoV-2, Latvia

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Information received on [and dated] 10 Feb 2021 from Dr. Maris Balodis, Chief Veterinary Officer and Director General, Food and Veterinary Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Riga, Latvia

#### Summary

Report type: Immediate notification

Date of start of the event: 17 Dec 2020

Date of confirmation of the event: 1 Feb 2021

Report date: 10 Feb 2021

Date submitted to OIE: 10 Feb 2021

Reason for notification: Emerging disease

Morbidity: 1 (scale 0 to 5)

Mortality: 0 (scale 0 to 5)

Zoonotic impact: Zoonotic potential under investigation

Causal agent: SARS-CoV-2

#### New outbreaks (1)

Summary of outbreaks:

Total outbreaks: 1

Outbreak location: Riga city, Riga

Date of start of the outbreak: 1 Feb 2021

Outbreak status: Resolved 2 Feb 2021

Epidemiological unit: Other

Total animals affected:

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

Cats / 2 / 1 / 0 / 0 / 0

Affected population: Cats were tested as part of a study within the framework of a national research program on COVID-19 mitigation. Cats were owned by a COVID-19-positive owner. Both cats were tested; one had a mild depression observed and was tested positive to SARS-CoV-2. The second cat -- without clinical signs -- tested negative to SARS-CoV-2.

Outbreak statistics [rates apparent, expressed as percentages]

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

Cats / 50 / 0 / 0 / 0

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

Epidemiology

Source of the outbreak(s) or origin of infection: Unknown or inconclusive, possible transmission from the owner

Epidemiological comments: The case was detected in the [framework] of a research project on pet animals of owners who were infected with SARS-CoV-2. The whole project is a national research program on COVID-19 mitigation.

Control measures

Measures applied: 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

Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment, BIOR (national laboratory) / Cats / Real-time reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RRT-PCR) / 1 Feb 2021 / 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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Communicated by:

ProMED

<promed@promedmail.org>

[The following has been extracted from the OIE Technical factsheet "Questions and Answers on COVID-19" (last updated 22 Jan 2021), available at <https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019novel-coronavirus/>:

"There is no evidence that companion animals are playing an epidemiological role in the spread of human infections of SARS-CoV-2. However, as animals and people can both be affected by this virus, it is recommended that people who are suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 virus avoid close contact with their companion animals and have another member of their household care for them. If they must look after their companion animals, they should maintain good hygiene practices and wear a face mask, if possible. Animals belonging to owners infected with COVID-19 virus should be kept indoors in line with similar lockdown recommendations for humans applicable in the country or area. There is no justification in taking measures which may compromise the welfare of companion animals.

"As a general good practice, basic hygiene measures should always be implemented when handling and caring for animals. This includes hand washing before and after being around or handling animals, their food, or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing, being licked by animals, or sharing food."

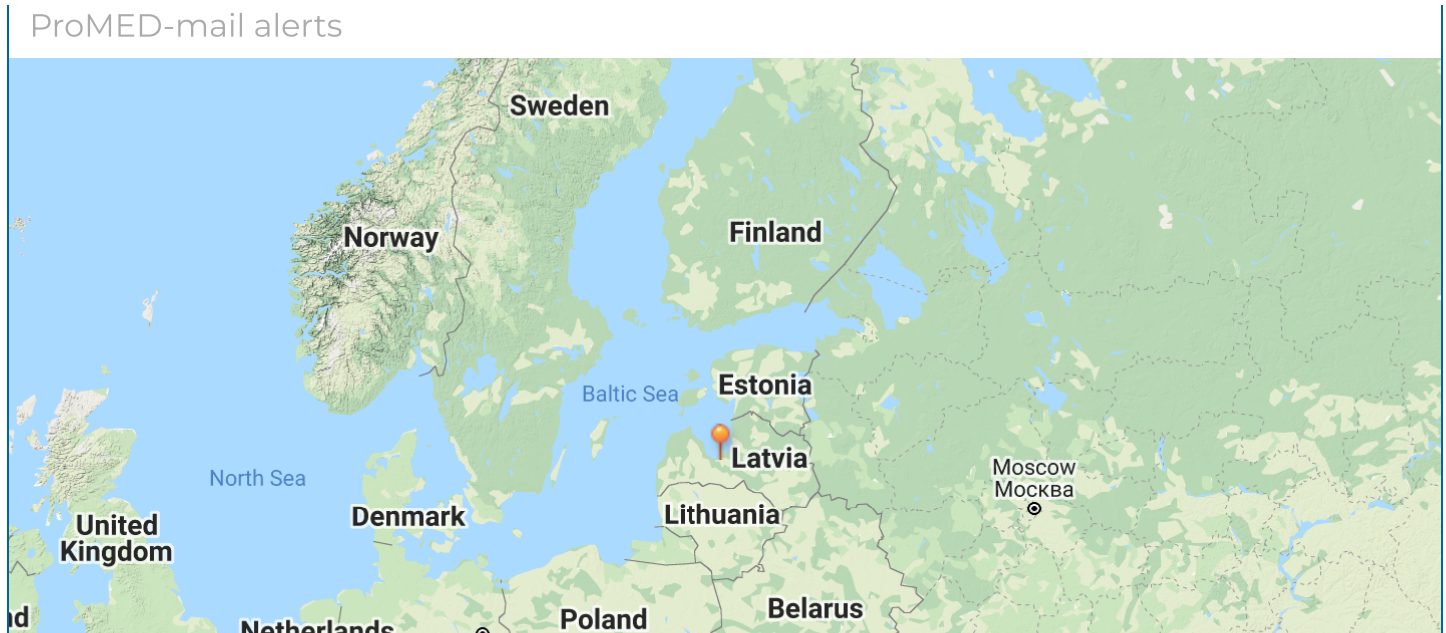
HealthMap/ProMED map:  
Riga, Latvia: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8187389,16159>

# See Also

COVID-19 update (60): animal, SARS-CoV-2-related viruses, pangolin, bat 20210211.8184900  
COVID-19 update (58): animal, China, origin, WHO mission 20210210.8183343  
COVID-19 update (57): animal China (Hong Kong) dog, OIE 20210210.8182259  
COVID-19 update (49): animal, Bosnia & Herzegovina (SA) dog, OIE 20210205.8165920  
COVID-19 update (39): animal, Spain, Switzerland, mink, cat, OIE 20210129.8146532  
COVID-19 update (35): animal, South Korea (KN) cat 20210126.8138196  
COVID-19 update (22): animal, Russia (LN) St Petersburg, cat 20210117.8111937  
2020

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COVID-19 update (552): USA, animal, cat, dog, snow leopard, OIE 20201223.8042405  
COVID-19 update (535): Denmark, animal, mink, zoonotic, cat, RFI 20201213.8015149  
COVID-19 update (525): Spain, animal, zoo, lion, human 20201208.8002466  
COVID-19 update (519): Switzerland (ZH) animal, cat, OIE 20201204.7993204  
COVID-19 update (506): Argentina (BA, SE) animal, cat, dog, OIE 20201125.7972283  
COVID-19 update (495): animal, cat, transmission model 20201119.7954363  
COVID-19 update (463): Brazil (MT) animal, cat, OIE 20201031.7905784  
COVID-19 update (452): Chile (RM) animal, cat, OIE 20201023.7885452  
COVID-19 update (350): USA (TX) animal, cat 20200808.7658191  
COVID-19 update (345): animal, cat, research, experimental infection 20200805.7648370  
COVID-19 update (334): animal, Netherlands, mink, spread, UK, cat, 1st rep, OIE 20200727.7617582  
COVID-19 update (330): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, OIE 20200724.7609215  
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

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