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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (516): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, Lithuania, mink, OIE

Archive Number: 20201203.7986508

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (516): CHINA (HONG KONG) ANIMAL, DOG, LITHUANIA, MINK, 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>

In this update:

[1] China (Hong Kong): outbreak in dogs

[2] Lithuania (Kaunas): outbreak in mink

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[1] China (Hong Kong): outbreak in dogs

Date: Fri 27 Nov 2020

Source: OIE, WAHIS (World Animal Health Information System), weekly disease information 2020; 33(49) [edited]

[https://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page\\_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=36751](https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=36751)

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

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Information received on [and dated] 27 Nov 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: 23 Nov 2020

Date of confirmation of the event: 25 Nov 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 1: Tsuen Wan, Tsuen Wan District, Hong Kong

Date of start of the outbreak: 23 Nov 2020

Outbreak status: continuing (or date resolved not provided)

Epidemiological unit: other

Total affected animals:

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

Dogs / 1 / 1 / 0 / 0 / 0

Affected population: a dog kept in the same household as a contact of 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\*

Dogs / 100 / 0 / 0 / 16.67

\*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 dog was placed under quarantine [on 23 Nov 2020] after exposure to the contact of a human case. Following veterinary examination nasal, oral, and rectal swab samples were taken after the dog's admission to the quarantine facility. The dog has not exhibited any specific clinical signs. 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 households 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) / dogs / real-time reverse transcriptase/polymerase chain reaction (RRT-PCR) / 23 Nov 2020 / positive

School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong (regional reference laboratory) / dogs / real-time reverse transcriptase/polymerase chain reaction (RRT-PCR) / 25 Nov 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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<promed@promedmail.org>

[HealthMap/ProMED map of Hong Kong: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7986508,2256>]

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[2] Lithuania (Kaunas): outbreak in mink

Date: Mon 30 Nov 2020

Source: OIE, WAHIS [edited]

[https://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page\\_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=36816](https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=36816)

## SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19, Lithuania

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Information received on [and dated] 30 Nov 2020 from Dr Darius Remeika, Director of the State Food and Veterinary, State Food and Veterinary Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Vilnius, Lithuania

### Summary

Report type: immediate notification

Date of start of the event: 26 Nov 2020

Date of confirmation of the event: 26 Nov 2020

Reason for notification: emerging disease

Morbidity: 1.7 percent

Mortality: 1.7 percent

Zoonotic impact: No

Causal agent: SARS-CoV-2

### New outbreaks (1)

#### Summary of outbreaks

Total outbreaks: 1

Outbreak location 1: Jonava, Kaunas

Date of start of the outbreak: 26 Nov 2020

Outbreak status: continuing (or date resolved not provided)

Epidemiological unit: farm

Total affected animals:

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

American mink: *\_Neovison vison\_ (Mustelidae)* / 60 000 / 324 / 324 / - / -

Affected population: the minks were bred for their fur in a farm. Evidence of contamination was established within the framework of passive surveillance due to increased mortality. 169 minks were found dead and randomly 10 were sampled and tested by PCR and were positive to SARS-CoV2. The next day, out of 155 found dead 22 were sampled and all tested positive for SARS-CoV2 by PCR. In total, 5 farm workers were detected positive for COVID-19.

### Outbreak statistics [rates apparent, expressed as percentages]

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

American mink: *\_Neovison vison\_ (Mustelidae)* / 0.54 / 0.54 / 100 / \*\*

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

\*\* Not calculated because of missing information

### Epidemiology

Source of the outbreak(s) or origin of infection: contact with infected workers

### Control measures

Measures applied: movement control inside the country; quarantine; selective killing and disposal; 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

National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute (national laboratory)/ American mink / polymerase chain reaction (PCR) / 26 Nov 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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Communicated by:

ProMED-mail

<promed@promedmail.org>

[HealthMap/ProMED map of Lithuania: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7986508,55267>

The outbreak in Lithuania was already published in ProMED-mail 20201127.7976927.

Subscribers are encouraged to read the OIE's Questions and Answers information on COVID-19, last updated Fri 27 Nov 2020, at <https://tinyurl.com/v3geqme>. The following is sourced from that information:

#### 1. What are the implications of animal infections with SARS-CoV-2?

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

However, there are valid concerns about the establishment of SARS-CoV-2 reservoirs in wild or domestic animals, which could pose a continued public health risk and lead to future spillover events to humans. Consequently, susceptible animal populations in close contact with humans should be closely monitored. The virus introduction to a new animal species might accelerate its evolution, which could potentially impact on surveillance and control strategies. Additionally, the conservation efforts might be undermined with the introduction of the virus to susceptible endangered animal populations, leading to biodiversity loss. Further investigation is needed to fully understand these risks.

More information about the SARS-CoV-2 events in animals reported by countries to the OIE can be found <https://tinyurl.com/y523mu7b>, last updated 30 Nov 2020.

#### 2. What do we know about SARS-CoV-2 and mink?

Farmed mink are highly susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection and, in some cases, they have transmitted the virus back to humans. Surveillance findings in Denmark show that SARS-CoV-2 introduced into mink populations continues to evolve through viral mutation. Viral mutation also happens in human infections, but new mutations may be seen as the virus adapts to a new species. Scientific investigations have confirmed that SARS-CoV-2 infection has been reintroduced from mink to humans.

The OIE acknowledges that such events could have important public health implications. There are concerns that the introduction and circulation of new virus strains in humans could result in modifications of transmissibility or virulence and in decreased treatment and vaccine efficacy. Yet, the full consequences remain unknown, and further investigation is needed to fully understand the impact of these mutations. Read more in the "OIE Statement on COVID-19 and mink" at <https://tinyurl.com/y26ovnx2>.

#### 3. What precautionary measures should be taken when humans suspected or confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2 are in contact with animals?

As a general good practice, appropriate and effective biosecurity measures should always be applied when people have contact with groups of animals, for example on farms, at zoos, and in animal shelters.

People who are suspected or confirmed to be infected with the COVID-19 virus should minimize close direct contact with animals, including farm, zoo or other captive animals, and wildlife.

Companion animals

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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 the 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 the 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.

#### Farmed animals

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Handling farmed animals susceptible to infection with SARS-CoV-2 can carry additional risks when large numbers of animals are kept in close contact. Risk management strategies depend on the species and the circumstances under which the animals live and are cared for. Refer to the specific "OIE guidance" (<https://tinyurl.com/y48sbgab>) for further recommendations.

#### Wildlife

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A wide range of mammalian species may be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. The OIE has developed guidelines (<https://tinyurl.com/y6d9jcol>) for people engaged in wildlife work in the field to minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission.

#### 4. What can Veterinary Services do to protect susceptible animals, such as mink?

Veterinary Services should protect animal health and welfare, and consequently public health, by implementing effective risk management measures to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 between humans and susceptible animals.

Monitoring susceptible animals, such as mink and raccoon dogs, as well as humans in close contact with them, for SARS-CoV-2 infection, is also important. Active monitoring is recommended as it might be difficult to detect early infections in these animals, especially mink.

When a person infected with the COVID-19 virus reports being in contact with animals, a joint risk assessment should be conducted by Veterinary and Public Health Services. If a decision is made to test animals as a result of this risk assessment, it is recommended to use RT-PCR to test oral, nasal, and/or fecal/rectal samples. The risk assessment may also recommend to carry out a full genome sequencing of the virus isolated from animals. Measures should be taken to avoid contamination of specimens from the environment or by humans.

Animals that have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 should be kept away from unexposed susceptible animals. For further recommendations, refer to the OIE guidelines for people working with susceptible farmed animals, as well as with wild mammals in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic. - Mod.CRD]

## See Also

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 (506): Argentina (BA, SE) animal, cat, dog, OIE 20201125.7972283

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 (495): animal, cat, transmission model 20201119.7954363  
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 (480): animal, USA (WI) mink 20201108.7923387  
COVID-19 update (479): farmed animals, guidance, OIE 20201108.7926649  
COVID-19 update (478): genome, mink, mortality rates, FDA, WHO, global 20201108.7925666  
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 (463): Brazil (MT) animal, cat, OIE 20201031.7905784  
COVID-19 update (464): animal, Denmark, mink, control, One Health 20201101.7906484  
COVID-19 update (461): animal, Sweden, mink, 1st case, RFI 20201030.7903582  
COVID-19 update (458): animal, Italy, mink, RFI 20201028.7897986  
COVID-19 update (452): Chile (RM) animal, cat, OIE 20201023.7885452  
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 (437): animal, Netherlands, Denmark, mink, spread, control 20201013.7858915  
COVID-19 update (433): animal, Denmark (ND, MJ) farmed mink, spread, control 20201010.7851707  
COVID-19 update (430): animal, USA (UT) mink 20201009.7847704  
COVID-19 update (425): animal, Denmark (ND) farmed mink, spread, control 20201004.7835635  
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 (350): USA (TX) animal, cat 20200808.7658191  
COVID-19 update (345): animal, cat, research, experimental infection 20200805.7648370  
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 (330): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, OIE 20200724.7609215  
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 (267): animal, domestic, wild, cat, research 20200617.7480013  
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 (238): USA (MN) animal, cat 20200605.7429133  
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 (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 defin. 20200513.7332909  
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 (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 (146): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, epidemiology 20200501.7286113  
COVID-19 update (149): France (IF) animal, cat, owned 20200501.7289409  
COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink 20200427.7272289  
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) animal, cat, susp, RFI 20200418.7240811  
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

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