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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (480): animal, USA (WI) mink

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (480): ANIMAL, USA (WISCONSIN) MINK

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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: Thu 5 Nov 2020

Source: Wisconsin News [edited]

<https://waow.com/2020/11/05/update-3400-mink-dead-second-farm-faces-confirmed-positive-case/>

An official with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) confirms 3400 mink have died on a farm in Taylor County.

This comes nearly a month after 9 mink tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19 in humans.

A quarantine at the specific farm remains in place.

Kevin Hoffman, with DATCP, also tells News 9 on 4 Nov [2020] that a 2nd mink farm in Taylor County has a confirmed positive case. He says at this time the farm is under quarantine but does not know the number of mink that have died. [This implies the mink farm has already depopulated its animals. - Mod.TG]

The DATCP is working with state, federal, and local partners on the case.

Update: According to Kevin Hoffman of DATCP, more than 2000 mink have died at a 2nd farm in Taylor County.

This 2nd farm confirmed a positive case on 4 Nov [2020].

This means that between the 2 farms, more than 5000 mink have died due to the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans.

[Byline: Sierra Rehm]

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Communicated by:

ProMED-mail Rapporteur Kunihiro Iizuka

[This article provides little information aside from a large mink farm has been found with the COVID-19 virus and has likely been depopulated. The article states the reporter did not know how many animals had died. It is unclear if this statement means the animals died of the virus or if the animals were depopulated.

Mink are in the weasel family, along with ferrets, which are easily infected with the coronavirus. Ferrets appear to suffer mild clinical signs. Mink, which are kept in crowded conditions ideal for spreading a virus, can become quite sick and die. Mink have been infected in other countries as well, including the Netherlands, Denmark, the United States, and likely China, which is the world's leading mink producer. Thousands of minks were killed in Utah because of a coronavirus outbreak, but authorities there said there it did not appear the mink transmitted the virus to humans, but the opposite.

There is concern in Denmark the virus could mutate and potentially hinder vaccine efficacy in people if the virus strain is passed to human beings. However, in the Utah case, the people passed the virus to the minks.

This article does not provide details regarding if the virus in Wisconsin was also transmitted from humans to the animals.

We extend our sympathies to the producers. - Mod.TG

HealthMap/ProMED-mail map:

Wisconsin, United States: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7923387,250>

## See Also

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 (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 (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 (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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