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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (39): animal, Spain, Switzerland, mink, cat, OIE

Archive Number: 20210129.8146532

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (39): ANIMAL, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, MINK, 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>

In this update:

[1] Spain (Castile and Leon): mink

[2] Switzerland (St. Gallen, Zurich): cats

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[1] Spain (Castile and Leon): mink

Date: Tue 26 Jan 2021

Source: OIE, WAHIS [edited]

[https://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page\\_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=37864](https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=37864)

Infection with SARS-CoV-2, Spain

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Information received on [and dated] 26 Jan 2021 from Dr. Valentin Almansa, Director General, Health of Agricultural Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid, Spain

Summary

Report type: Immediate notification

Date of start of the event: 8 Jan 2021

Date of confirmation of the event: 22 Jan 2021

Reason for notification: Emerging disease

Morbidity: [0.20%]

Mortality: 0%

Zoonotic impact: The infected animals showed no clinical signs.

Causal agent: SARS-CoV-2

New outbreaks (1)

Total outbreaks: 1

Total affected animals:

Outbreak location: Navatalgordo, Castilla y Leon

Date of start of the outbreak: 8 Jan 2021

Outbreak status: Continuing (or date resolved not provided)

Epidemiological unit: Farm

Total animals affected:

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

Mustelidae / 1010 / 2 / - / - / -

Affected population: 1010 minks (800 females and 210 males)

Outbreak statistics [rates apparent, expressed as percentages]

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

Mustelidae / 0.20 / \*\* / \*\* / \*\*

\*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: Likely introduction through contact of animals with infected workers

Epidemiological comments: Likely introduction through contact of animals with infected workers

#### Control measures

Measures applied: Surveillance outside containment and/or protection zone; surveillance within containment and/or protection zone; screening; traceability; official disposal of carcasses, by-products and waste; process to inactivate the pathogenic agent in products or by-products; vaccination permitted (if a vaccine exists); no treatment of affected animals

Measures to be applied: Disinfection/disinfestation, stamping out

#### Diagnostic test results

Laboratory name and type / Species / Test / Test date / Result

Central Veterinary Laboratory in Algete (national laboratory) / Mustelidae / Real-time PCR / 22 Jan 2021 / Positive

#### Future reporting

The event is resolved. No more 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:

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<promed@promedmail.org>

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[2] Switzerland (St. Gallen, Zurich): cats

Date: Thu 28 Jan 2021

Source: OIE, WAHIS [edited]

[https://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page\\_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=37897](https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=37897)

SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19, Switzerland

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Information received on [and dated] 28 Jan 2021 from Mr. Hans Wyss, Chief Veterinary Officer, Schwarzenburgstrasse 161, Swiss Federal Veterinary Office, Liebefeld-Berne, Switzerland

#### Summary

Report type: Immediate notification  
Date of start of the event: 21 Jan 2021  
Date of confirmation of the event: 27 Jan 2021  
Report date: 28 Jan 2021  
Date submitted to OIE: 28 Jan 2021  
Reason for notification: Emerging disease  
Morbidity: 2 (scale 0 to 5)  
Mortality: 0 (scale 0 to 5)  
Zoonotic impact: Zoonotic potential under investigation  
Causal agent: SARS-CoV-2

#### New outbreaks (2)

Outbreak location 1: Walenstadt, Walenstadt, Sarganserland, Sankt Gallen

Date of start of the outbreak: 21 Jan 2021

Outbreak status: Continuing (or date resolved not provided)

Epidemiological unit: Other

Animals affected:

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

Cats / 1 / 1 / 0 / 0 / 0

Affected population: This case was detected in the frame of a research project on pet animals of owners who were infected with SARS-CoV-2. The project is in the responsibility of the Clinical Laboratory of the Vetsuisse Faculty (VSF) of the University of Zurich (UZH).

Outbreak location 2: Zurich

Date of start of the outbreak: 27 Jan 2021

Outbreak status: Continuing (or date resolved not provided)

Epidemiological unit: Other

Animals affected:

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

Cats / 1 / 1 / 0 / 0 / 0

Affected population: This case was detected in the frame of a research project on pet animals of owners who were infected with SARS-CoV-2. The project is in the responsibility of the Clinical Laboratory of the Vetsuisse Faculty (VSF) of the University of Zurich (UZH).

Total outbreaks: 2

Total animals affected:

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

Cats / 2 / 2 / 0 / 0 / 0

Outbreak statistics [rates apparent, expressed as percentages]

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

Cats / 100 / 0 / 0 / 0

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

#### Epidemiology

Source of the outbreak(s) or origin of infection: Contact with owner

Epidemiological comments: These cases were detected in the frame of a research project on pet animals of owners who were infected with SARS-CoV-2. The project is in the responsibility of the Clinical Laboratory of the Vetsuisse Faculty (VSF) of the University of Zurich (UZH). The Swiss government does currently not recommend to test cats for SARS-CoV-2 but supports research to increase knowledge in the field. For the time being, COVID-19 continues to be treated as a human disease with the main route of transmission between humans.

## Control measures

Measures applied: Quarantine; 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 for Virology and Immunology (IVI) (national laboratory) / Cats / Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) / 27 Jan 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:

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<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/>:

"Can animals be infected with SARS-CoV-2?

"Yes, several animal species have demonstrated susceptibility to the virus through experimental infection, and in natural settings when in contact with infected humans. There is also evidence that infected animals can transmit the virus to other animals in natural settings through contact, such as mink to mink transmission, and mink to cat transmission. Infection of animals with SARS-CoV-2 has implications for animal and human health, animal welfare, wildlife conservation, and biomedical research. However, not all species appear to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. To date, findings from experimental infection studies show that poultry and cattle are not susceptible to infection. Up to date information on the susceptibility of different animal species can be found here [https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/EN\\_Factsheet\\_SARS-CoV-2.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/EN_Factsheet_SARS-CoV-2.pdf)."

"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, eg, on farms, at zoos, and in animal shelters. People who are suspected or confirmed to be infected with the COVID-19 virus should minimise close direct contact with animals, including farm, zoo or other captive animals, and wildlife.

"Companion animals

"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.

"Farmed animals

"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://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/Draft\\_OIE\\_Guidance\\_farmed\\_animals\\_cleanMS05.11.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/Draft_OIE_Guidance_farmed_animals_cleanMS05.11.pdf)) for further recommendations.

"Wildlife

"A wide range of mammalian species may be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. The OIE has developed guidelines ([https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our\\_scientific\\_expertise/docs/pdf/COV-19/A\\_WHSG\\_and\\_OIE\\_COVID-19\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/COV-19/A_WHSG_and_OIE_COVID-19_Guidelines.pdf)) for people engaged in wildlife work in the field to minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission."

"More information about the SARS-CoV-2 events in animals reported by countries to the OIE can be found here

<https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus/events-in-animals/>" (last updated 28 Jan 2021). - Mod.CRD

HealthMap/ProMED maps:

Spain: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8146532,43>

Switzerland: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8146532,105>

## See Also

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

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

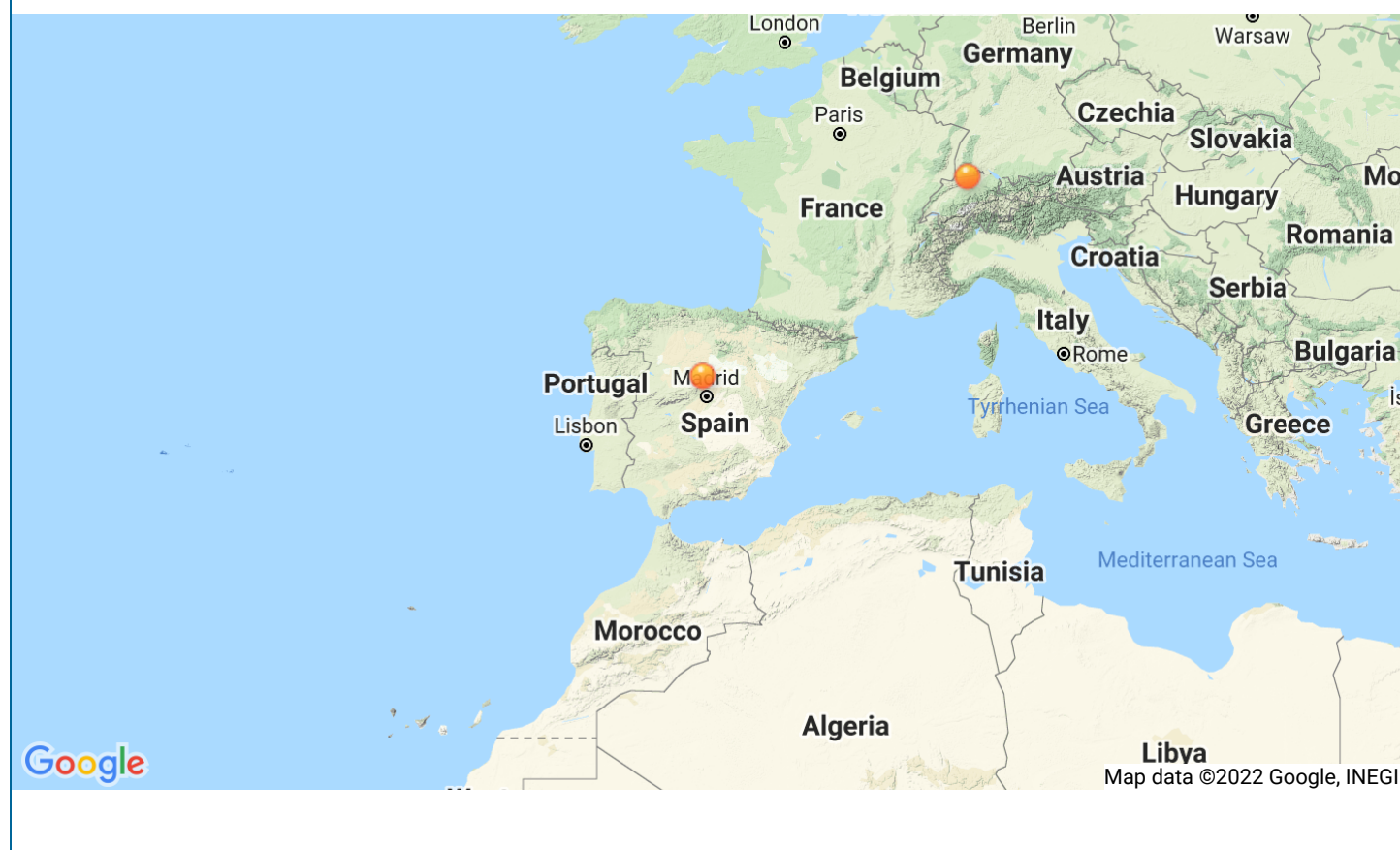
COVID-19 update (227): animal, cat, dog, research, experimental infection 20200601.7416648

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 (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 (166): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, OIE, resolved 20200508.7314521  
COVID-19 update (149): France (IF) animal, cat, owned 20200501.7289409  
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 (76): China (HU) animal, cat, owned, stray, seropositive 20200403.7179946  
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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