



Published Date: 2020-11-23 16:26:20 CET

Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (503): animal, France, mink, 1st rep

Archive Number: 20201123.7965554

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (503): ANIMAL, FRANCE, MINK, FIRST REPORT

A ProMED-mail post

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Date: Sun 22 Nov 2020

Source: Reuters [edited]

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-mink-idUSKBN2820GC>

Mink infected with coronavirus have been found at a farm in the Eure-et-Loire region of western France, and 1000 mink at the farm will be culled, the French agriculture ministry said on Sunday [22 Nov 2020].

Cases in mink have also been reported elsewhere in Europe, notably in Sweden, Greece, the Netherlands, [and Spain].

In Denmark, the virus was found to have mutated into a different strain, which experts feared could render a vaccine less effective if transmitted back to humans. Around 17 million mink are due to be culled there.

France started testing its 4 mink farms in mid-November [2020].

"At this stage, tests have shown the virus circulating in an Eure-et-Loire farm," the ministry said. "A 2nd farm is unscathed. Tests are still underway in the last 2 farms, with results expected during the week."

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[France reported to the OIE, on 5 and 12 May 2020, infections with SARS-CoV-2 in 2 domestic cats, attributed to human-cat contact. The event was published in a scientific journal; see <https://tinyurl.com/y32jefpa>. The current case in minks is expected to be similarly notified to the OIE as an emerging disease.

France was included in a (probably incomplete) list of European countries which were exporters of raw mink skins in 2013; the others were Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania,

Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, and Sweden (see table 6 in ref 1 below). Likely, and as can be seen in a recent global map presenting the 'World laws on killing animals for fur', some of the countries named are no longer counted among such countries. The map presents the following categories: 1. Killing animals for fur is illegal. 2. Killing animals for fur is legal, but strict anti-cruelty regulations make fur farms uneconomic. 3. Killing animals for fur is legal, but importing or selling fur is illegal. 4. Killing animals for fur is partially illegal (some animals are excluded). 5. Killing animals for fur is legal and active. 6. Unknown. The map can be seen at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fur_farming#/media/File:World_laws_on_killing_animals_for_fur.png.

The establishment, preferably by an international animal health institution, of an updated list of mink-farming countries, including information on their respective COVID-19 surveillance activities, is warranted.

Genotyping results, comparing the French mink virus strain with local human strains and Dutch/Danish mink virus strains, are anticipated with interest.

Reference

1. Henning OH. European mink industry -- socio-economic impact assessment. Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen. 19 Sep 2017; <https://www.altinget.dk/misc/Fur-Invasive-19-09.pdf>
- Mod.AS

HealthMap/ProMED map:

Eure-et-Loir, Centre-Val de Loire, France: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7965554,67887>

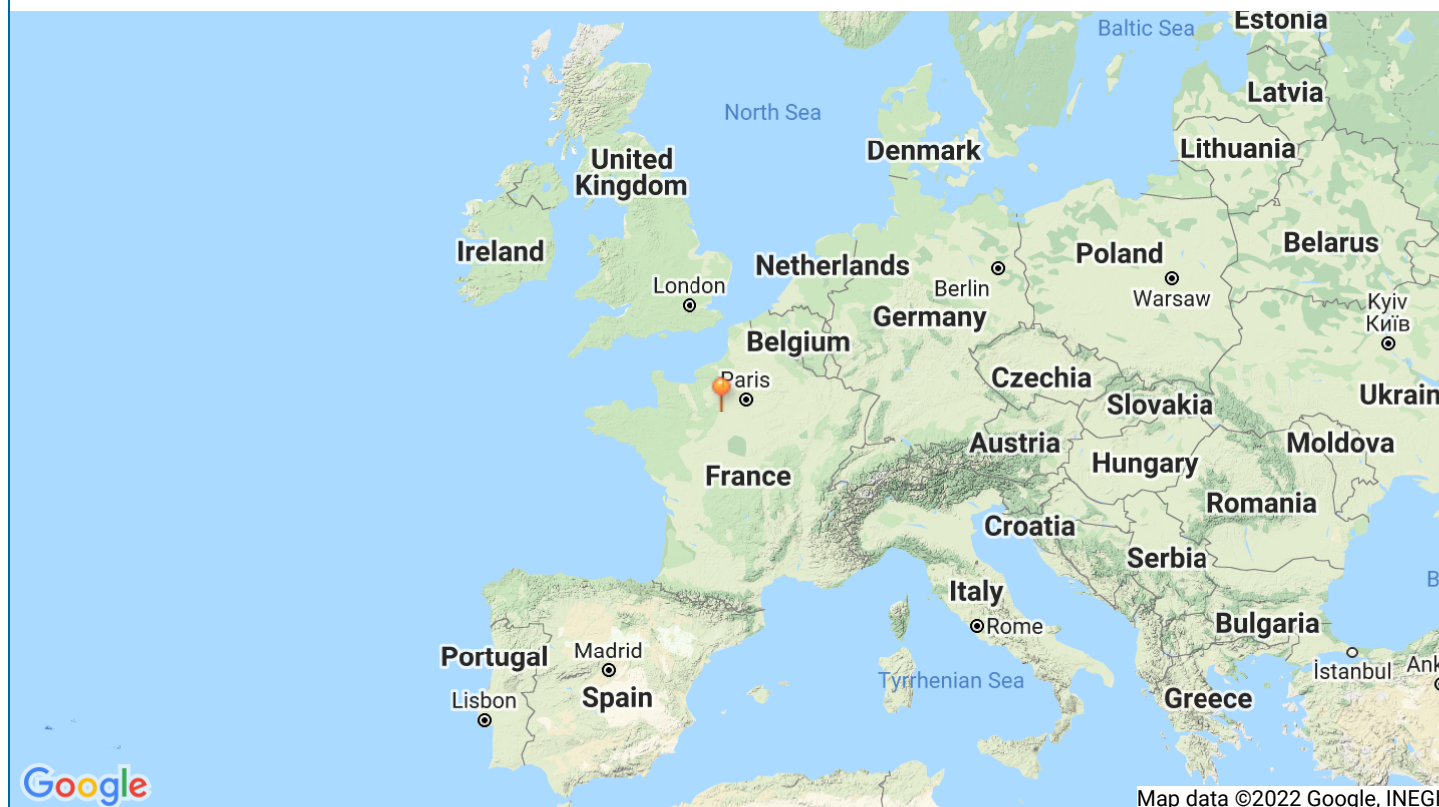
See Also

COVID-19 update (501): Denmark, Netherlands, mink, human-animal interface 20201122.7963766
COVID-19 update (490): animal, Greece (EM) mink, 1st report, OIE, assessment 20201115.7944705
COVID-19 update (498): Denmark, animal, mink, zoonotic 20201120.7959431
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 (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, envir 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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