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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (324): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread

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COVID-19 UPDATE (324): NETHERLANDS (NORTH BRABANT) ANIMAL, FARMED MINK, SPREAD

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A ProMED-mail post

<http://www.promedmail.org>

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International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org>

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Source: Dutch News [edited]

<https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2020/07/coronavirus-infestation-spreads-to-25th-dutch-mink-farm/>

Coronavirus has been detected on another mink farm in the Netherlands, bringing the total to 25.

The agriculture ministry confirmed that cubs being prepared for transport on the farm in Westerbeek, Noord-Brabant (North Brabant), tested positive for the virus. All 1100 adult females and their young will be put down. The government tightened transport restrictions for mink on 10 Jul 2020 in the light of previous outbreaks. So far, more than one million animals have been destroyed as a result of coronavirus infections.

The mink farming industry is being scaled down and is due to be abolished in 2024.

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communicated by:

ProMED-mail

<[promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org)>

via

ProMED-MENA

<[promed-mena@promedmail.org](mailto:promed-mena@promedmail.org)>

[On 16 Jul 2020, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality - Animal Supply Chain and Animal Welfare Department addressed a letter to the OIE updating the situation regarding SARS-CoV-2 infection in farmed mink. Infected farms (n=25) are located in 2 provinces: Noord Brabant and Limburg. More information regarding the mandatory screening, epidemiological investigation and control measures implemented can be found at [https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/Letter\\_16\\_July\\_2020\\_to\\_OIE\\_update\\_SARS\\_CoV\\_2\\_in\\_mink\\_in\\_The\\_Netherlands.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/Letter_16_July_2020_to_OIE_update_SARS_CoV_2_in_mink_in_The_Netherlands.pdf). - Mod.SF]

[From the mentioned/linked 3rd "COVID-19 in mink" informational letter from the Dutch CVO, Dr Christianne Bruschke, to OIE's director general, Dr Monique Eloit, submitted 16 Jul 2020, some points of interest follow:

1. Out of the 25 farms recognised to be CoV-SARS-2 infected so far, in 8 farms, the owner noticed clinical signs and reported the suspicion to the competent authority. No clinical signs were observed on the majority (17) of the affected farms. They were detected mainly by the implemented "compulsory early warning survey (EWS)" policy: weekly submission of dead animals. The 25th event was identified by (compulsory?) tests of cubs prior to their planned transport. Notably, in the recent COVID-19 event in Spain, no clinical signs were observed (20200717.7584560).
2. The Dutch investigators carried out tracing activities to identify possible sources of SARS-CoV-2 infections. Based on sequence analyses, the route, "infected employee to mink", seems likely for some farms, but, for other farms, the source of infection remained unknown. Sequence analysis of the isolates from mink showed clustering of the viruses, but no clear links were identified between the various farms. As it is important to gain more insight into the routes of transmission, they are, reportedly, about to carry out additional research with respect to possible sources of virus introduction and epidemiological links between the infected premises.
3. A serological screening was carried out in May 2020 in all mink farms "to get an overview of the situation"; this will be repeated later this summer [2020].
4. On some uninfected farms, the owners have problems with the storage of the manure. Owners of uninfected farms are allowed to transport manure under specified conditions.
5. EWS is to be continued the next couple of weeks; future developments are to be similarly published.

The COVID-19 event in the Dutch mink sector and its continued "natural" spread within a susceptible, relatively large animal population have provided a unique opportunity to try gaining new science-based information on virus qualities and spread capacities, including airborne spread. Results are anticipated with interest.

One wonders whether the possibility of using this (still spreading) epizootic in animals for field trials of candidate vaccines has been considered. - Mod.AS

HealthMap/ProMED map:

North Brabant, Netherlands: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7591013,1250>

## See Also

- 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 (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 definition 20200513.7332909

COVID-19 update (177): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, Spain (CT) cat susp 20200512.732858

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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