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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (266): DENMARK (NORTH JUTLAND) ANIMAL, FARMED MINK, FIRST REPORT

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A ProMED-mail post

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Source: The Local, Denmark [edited]

<https://www.thelocal.dk/20200617/danish-mink-face-slaughter-after-catching-coronavirus>

A herd of mink is being slaughtered at a farm in North Jutland after several of the animals and one employee tested positive for coronavirus. Nicholas Kuhn Hove, the head of emergency preparedness at the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration said in a press statement that samples from the animals had been sent to be tested at Denmark's infectious diseases agency (SSI; Statens Serum Institut) over the weekend [13-14 Jun 2020], after some of the animals displayed symptoms.

At the same time, the farm was immediately quarantined. "When there was a suspicion of infection among the minks over the weekend, we placed immediate restrictions on the mink farm," he said. "No animals, and only a few employees, were able to go in and out."

According to Reuters, 11 000 animals at the farm will now be slaughtered under the precautionary principle. These are the 1st recorded cases of coronavirus infection at a Danish mink farm, although 2 mink farms in The Netherlands had animals test positive in April [2020].

In a press statement, the Danish mink breeders' association, said that they believed that the mink must have been infected by a human who had contracted the virus. "The infection was probably carried into the farm by the owner or an employee," they wrote. "Danish mink breeders are in close dialogue with the authorities and have been so since the 1st Dutch case in mid-April [2020].

According to TV2 Nord, a person associated with the farm has also tested positive. According to the Veterinary and Food Administration, animals do not play a significant role in the spread of coronavirus. "There is still no indication that pets play a role in the spread of COVID-19 to humans," a spokesperson told TV2.

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[Denmark is regarded the world's top mink producer, said to produce 40 per cent of the world's pelts, with estimated fur and mink skins export of about EUR 0.5 billion [about USD 561 million] annually.

In the Netherlands, the number of SARS-CoV-2 infected (and culled) mink farms has increased to 15; the 2 last added outbreaks were reported to the House of Representatives in a letter from the Agriculture minister dated 15 Jun 2020; see

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2020/06/15/kamerbrief-stand-van-zaken-covid-19-en-nertsen> (in Dutch).

In the Netherlands, 2 people were identified as infected from minks, leading to the severe veterinary measures applied, including culling and movement restrictions.

A government-supported study in the Netherlands includes tests in cats to establish or exclude their potential role in the epidemiology of the disease in and between mink farms. The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) asked for research into (virus) transmission in cats by collaborating research groups within the Netherlands Centre for One Health (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University Utrecht, Wageningen University & Research, Erasmus MC and research centres in human health care). - Mod.AS

HealthMap/ProMED map of Denmark: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7479510,16381.>

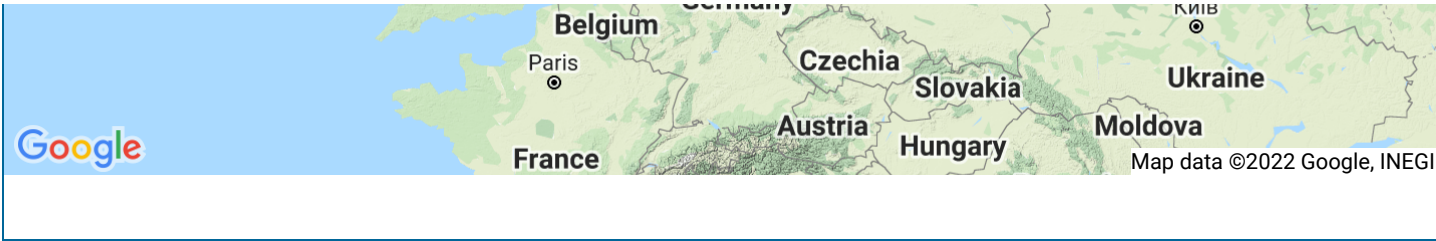
## See Also

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  
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COVID-19 update (236): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, culling 20200604.7427849  
COVID-19 update (231): USA (NY) animal, dog conf. 20200602.7420541  
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  
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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  
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COVID-19 update (25): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, susp, OIE 20200302.7040373  
COVID-19 update (22): companion animal, dog susp, RFI 20200229.7036661  
COVID-19 update (17): China, animal reservoir, wildlife trade & consumption 20200225.7024245  
COVID-19 update (11): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts, pangolin susp 20200220.7009213  
COVID-19 update (08): companion animal, RFI 20200218.7002276  
COVID-19 update (06): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts 20200217.6997782  
Novel coronavirus (40): animal reservoir, pangolin poss intermediate host, RFI 20200210.6972104  
Novel coronavirus (28): China (HU) animal reservoir 20200201.6943858  
Novel coronavirus (22): reservoir suggested, bats 20200129.6930718  
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Novel coronavirus (18): China (HU) animal reservoir 20200125.6915411  
Novel coronavirus (15): China (HU) wild animal sources 20200123.6909913  
Novel coronavirus (03): China (HU) animal reservoir suggested, RFI 20200114.6887480  
Novel coronavirus (01): China (HU) WHO, phylogenetic tree 20200112.6885385  
Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (HU) (07): official confirmation of novel coronavirus 20200108.6878869  
Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (05): (HU) novel coronavirus identified 20200108.6877694  
Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (03): (HU) updates, SARS, MERS ruled out, WHO, RFI 20200105.6872267  
Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (01): (HU) wildlife sales, market closed, RFI 20200102.6866757  
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