



Published Date: 2020-04-28 14:43:50 CEST

Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (138): India, animal, wild tiger, fatal

Archive Number: 20200428.7275765

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (138): INDIA, ANIMAL, WILD TIGER, FATAL

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: Mon 27 Apr 2020 5:20 AM IST

Source: The Free Press Journal [edited]

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/bhopal/madhya-pradesh-pench-forest-staff-quarantined-after-death-of-corona-positive-tiger-is-fit-now> [edited]

All forest department officials of Pench Tiger Reserve, who were quarantined after the death of T-21 tiger, have completed their quarantine period and all are fit now. The tiger died on [4 Apr 2020] in Pench Tiger Reserve. National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had issued alert after tiger was found COVID-19 positive in US. Pench Tiger Reserve is spread in Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh.

The T-21 tiger died due to lungs infection and high fever. Antibiotics were administered to the tiger but it did not improve and ultimately it died on [4 Apr 2020]. The officials were in tension as the tiger was showing abnormal behavior so the entire team (14 members) were quarantined.

Director of Pench Tiger Reserve Vikram Singh said, "The entire team members were quarantined in forest after the death of T-21 tiger. Now their quarantine period is over and all are okay. Entry of visitors was totally banned in Pench Tiger Reserve after the death of the tiger. Our team was having close vigil on T-21 as it used to visit water reservoir and died at the reservoir. Post-mortem was conducted and the entire team sent on quarantine as preventive measure."

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[Pench Tiger Reserve is a 293 sq km (113 sq mi) area in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. This area is considered one of the critical tiger habitats remaining in central India, hosting a population of around 44 tigers.

According to this article, the deceased tiger has been confirmed SARS-CoV-2 positive, and they attribute the cause of death to

this infection. The occurrence of fever and lung lesions support his contention. However, a previous report (before tests confirmed the tiger was infected by SARS-CoV-2; <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/22/science/india-tigers-coronavirus.html>) states that the cause of death might have been an impacted intestine arising from a giant hairball.

If histopathology and other tests run on the specimens taken during the post-mortem procedure finally confirm the tiger died from infection by SARS-CoV-2, this would be the 1st documented death due to this virus in a non-human mammal.

Another major implication is that COVID-19 might add to the list of threats faced by tigers and other big cats, which already struggle to thrive despite habitat fragmentation and degradation, climate change, poaching, and many other diseases. - Mod.PMB

HealthMap/ProMED-mail map of India: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7275765,66236>

See Also

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COVID-19 update (130): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, new cases 20200425.7266556
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) cat, animal, susp, RFI 20200418.7240811
COVID-19 update (88): Germany, animal, research, pig, chicken, bat, ferret 20200407.7196506
COVID-19 update (85): USA (NY) animal, tiger, OIE 20200406.7191480
COVID-19 update (84): USA animal, tiger 20200406.7191352
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
COVID-19 update (56): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, final serology positive 20200326.7146438
COVID-19 update (50): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR positive, OIE 20200323.7129951
COVID-19 update (45): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR positive 20200319.7112693
COVID-19 update (37): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, prelim. serology negative 20200312.7081842
COVID-19 update (30): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, susp, serology pending 20200306.7057595
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COVID-19 update (11): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts, pangolin susp 20200220.7009213
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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
Novel coronavirus (20): China, wildlife trade ban 20200127.6922060
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
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