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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (469): USA (TN) animal, zoo, tiger

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (469): USA (TENNESSEE) ANIMAL, ZOO, TIGER

A ProMED-mail post

<http://www.promedmail.org>

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International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org>

Date: Sat 31 Oct 2020 4:21 AM EST

Source: abc7 Eyewitness News, CNN report [edited]

<https://abc7.com/tiger-zoo-knoxville-animals-covid/7491386/>

A tiger at Zoo Knoxville has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the same virus that causes COVID-19 in humans, according to zoo officials.

Malayan tigers Arya, Bashir, and Tanvir were experiencing "mild coughing, lethargy, and decrease in appetite." Zoo officials said the animals were tested for "a range of potential causes, including SARS-CoV-2."

Zoo officials said test results confirmed that 11-year-old male Bashir tested positive. Officials added confirmatory testing for Arya and Tanvir is in process, but "they are presumed positive."

The tigers will be "released from quarantine once they are symptom free for 72 hours and either all diagnostic tests are negative, or 14 days have passed since the last positive test in accordance with CDC guidelines."

A veterinary team from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine is taking care of the 3 tigers. Zoo officials said Arya, Bashir, and Tanvir are "alert, active, and no longer exhibiting symptoms."

Crews at Zoo Knoxville are working to determine the cause of the infection. Officials added "an asymptotically infected staff member working in close proximity to the tigers when caring for them" could have led to the infection.

No other animals at Zoo Knoxville "have shown signs of illness," officials said.

Based on limited information available to date, the risk of animals, including these tigers, spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to people is low. Zoo Knoxville's tigers are participating in the Coronavirus Epidemiological Research and Surveillance (CoVERS) study, run by the Runstadler lab at Cummings School, which is studying SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 transmission between humans and animals. The CoVERS team is investigating which species can get this novel coronavirus, if animals can further

transmit it to other animals, if the virus causes disease in some animals, and if the virus needs to mutate to infect different species.

Zoo Knoxville is continuing to follow safety protocols and all staff are following what was recommended by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Tennessee Pledge.

[Byline: Joe Wenzel]

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[Infection by SARS-CoV-2 has been confirmed so far in carnivores of 3 families, canids (dogs and raccoon dogs), felids (cats, tigers, lions, and cougars), and mustelids (ferrets and minks). Lions and tigers experienced respiratory disease at the Bronx Zoo in April 2020 (see ProMED post 20200425.7266556).- Mod.PMB

HealthMap/ProMED map of Tennessee, United States: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7915683,67823>

See Also

COVID-19 update (143): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, tests 20200430.7284183
COVID-19 update (141): India, animal, wild tiger, susp, clarification, RFI 20200430.7281768
COVID-19 update (138): India, animal, wild tiger, fatal 20200428.7275765
COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink 20200427.7272289
COVID-19 update (130): USA (NY) zoo, tiger, lion, new cases 20200425.7266556
COVID-19 update (85): USA (NY) tiger, OIE 20200406.7191480
COVID-19 update (84): USA, tigers 20200406.7191352
COVID-19 update (76): China (HU) animal, cat, owned, stray, seropositive 20200403.7179946
COVID-19 update (75): China (Hong Kong) cat, OIE 20200403.7179945
COVID-19 update (70): China (Hong Kong) cat, pets & stock 20200402.7173286
COVID-19 update (58): Belgium, cat, clinical case, RFI 20200327.7151215
COVID-19 update (57): global, re-using PPE, DR Congo, more countries, WHO 20200327.7149046
COVID-19 update (56): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, final serology positive 20200326.7146438
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) dog, susp, serology pending 20200306.7057595
COVID-19 update (25): China (Hong Kong) dog, susp, OIE 20200302.7040373
COVID-19 update (22): companion animals, 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 animals, RFI 20200218.7002276
COVID-19 update (06): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts 20200217.6997782
Novel coronavirus (42): China, global, COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, WHO 20200211.6979942
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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