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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (135): NETHERLANDS (NORTH BRABANT) ANIMAL, FARMED MINK

A ProMED-mail post

<http://www.promedmail.org>

ProMED-mail is a program of the

International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org>

In this report:

[1] News describing COVID-19 in farmed minks

[2] Dutch government announcement

[1] News describing COVID-19 in farmed minks

Date: Sun 26 Apr 2020 13:34 CEST

Source: NL Times [edited]

<https://nltimes.nl/2020/04/26/mink-found-infected-covid-19-two-dutch-fur-farms-areas-now-closed-public> [edited]

A coronavirus infection among mink being raised on 2 fur farms in the Netherlands has forced the closure of several roads with people warned not to come within 400 meters [approx. 0.25 mi] of the farms. The 2 locations are in Gemert-Bakel and Laarbeek, about 10 km [approx. 6.2 mi] apart in the province of Noord-Brabant.

The virus was believed to be spread from humans at the farms to the mink, and not the other way around.

"As a precautionary measure, RIVM [public health agency] is advising against cycling or walking within a radius of approximately 400 meters [approx. 0.25 mi] around the infected mink farm until the results of the research on the air and dust samples are known," the agriculture ministry said in a statement. The mayors of the 2 municipalities will carry out the necessary road closures.

Mink were found to be carrying the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the variant of coronavirus responsible for respiratory illness COVID-19.

"The minks showed various symptoms including respiratory problems," the ministry said. "Investigations have been launched to determine the source of the infections."

Workers at both farms tested positive for the virus, and are believed to have passed the infection on to the mink. The ministry pointed out that mink and ferrets belong to the same animal family, with earlier research showing that the latter are susceptible to COVID-19.

"Human to animal contamination is possible, but the impact of this mink contamination on human health is currently negligible. Human to human contamination is the driving force behind the current coronavirus pandemic," the ministry said.

"There is currently no reason to believe that the virus spreads in these mink farms in any other way than it does between humans," the ministry said. All Dutch mink farmers, veterinarians, and researchers will be required to report any respiratory problems or increased mortality in mink.

The ministry wants more research to be done to determine if the virus spreads the same way among livestock as it does among humans. "While it is not expected that the virus will spread over longer distances, air and dust samples are also taken in the vicinity of the company as a precaution," the ministry said.

[Byline: Zack Newmark]

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[2]

Date: Sun 26 Apr 2020 13:34 CEST

Source: NL Times [in Dutch, machine trans., edited]

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/nieuws/2020/04/26/covid-19-geconstateerd-op-twee-nertsenbedrijven>

Two mink farms in Gemert-Bakel and Laarbeek have detected infection of COVID-19 in different minks. The minks showed various clinical signs including respiratory problems. Investigations have been launched to determine the source of the infections. Because some employees had symptoms of the coronavirus at both companies, it is assumed that people infected the animals. Previous research showed that ferrets, and therefore also minks, are susceptible to COVID-19. There are currently no indications that farm animals or pets play a role in the spread of COVID-19.

Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (NVWA) has immediately announced measures. As of today [Sun 26 Apr 2020], a reporting obligation has been introduced for mink farmers, veterinarians and persons in research institutions. If there are respiratory problems and increased mortality in minks, this must be reported to the NVWA. To prevent possible spread of the virus to other farms, both animals and manure must not leave an infected farm. Since other livestock animals do not appear to be susceptible to the virus, a notification requirement is now only imposed for minks.

It is important to know how the disease develops on the infected farms. This knowledge can be used to better understand the disease and its course in animals and humans. Therefore, samples are collected from sick and healthy animals. These will be used for further investigation. Although the virus is not expected to spread over longer distances, air and dust samples are also taken in the vicinity of the company as a precaution. These are being examined to see whether virus can be detected in this. The Lower House will be informed as soon as more information becomes available about the outcome of this investigation.

According to the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), based on current knowledge about COVID-19, the mink companies do not pose a risk of further spread to humans. Human to animal contamination is possible, but the impact of this mink contamination on human health is currently negligible. Human to human contamination is the driving force behind the current pandemic.

There is currently no reason to believe that the virus spreads in these mink farms in any other way than it does between humans. As a precautionary measure, RIVM advises against cycling or walking within a radius of approximately 400 meters [approx. 0.25 mi] around the infected mink farm until the results of the research on the air and dust samples are known. It was decided to close

the public road in this radius around the company for pedestrians and cyclists until the results of the research are known. The mayors of both municipalities will soon take this measure.

Documents available at the URL:

Letter to parliament Infection of minks with SARS-CoV-2

Letter to the Lower House of Minister Schouten (LNV) about mink infection with SARS-CoV-2.

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[Infection by SARS-CoV-2 has been confirmed so far in carnivores of 3 families, canids (dogs), felids (cats, tigers, and lions), and mustelids (ferrets). Infection in cats and ferrets has been confirmed experimentally, whereas the virus was shown to replicate poorly in dogs following inoculation. Minks (*Neovison vison*) belong to the same family as ferrets (*Mustela putorius*). Ferrets are used as animal models for infectious diseases. Due to this and to the fact that they are also used as pets, ferrets were exposed to SARS-CoV-2 experimentally in 2 independent experiments, where it was found that they, as cats, are permissive to infection. This episode in farmed minks represents the 1st report of naturally infected mustelids. - Mod.PMB

HealthMap/ProMED map available at:

North Brabant, Netherlands: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7272289,1250>]

See Also

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) 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 (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) 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

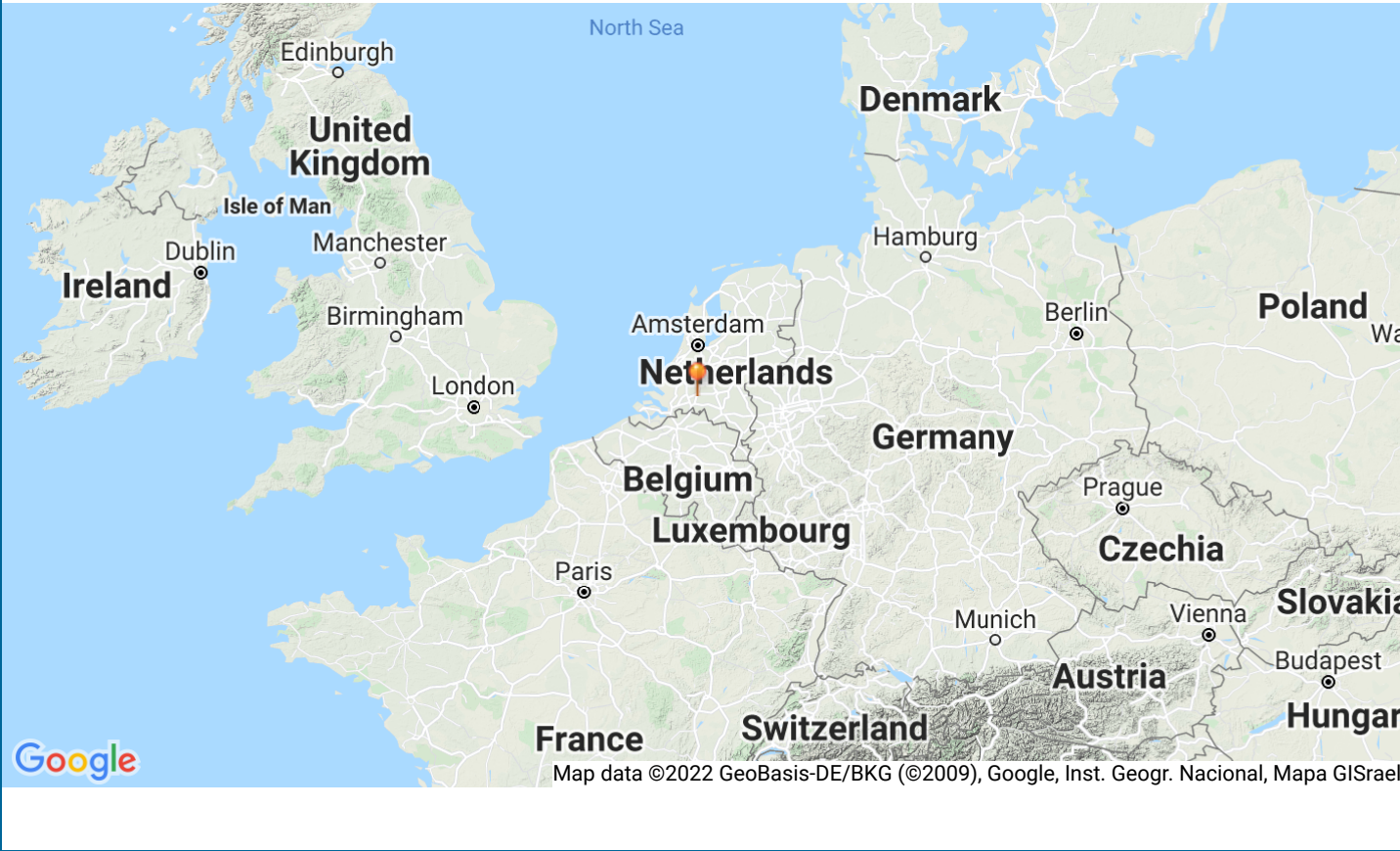
COVID-19 update (06): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts 20200217.6997782

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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