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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (394): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread

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COVID-19 UPDATE (394): 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: News, Dutch government's website [in Dutch, trans. Mod.AS, edited]

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/nieuws/2020/09/07/bevestiging-besmettingen-covid-19-bij-twee-nertsenbedrijven>

At a mink farm in Deurne and a mink farm in Wilbertoord (municipality of Mill and Sint Hubert), infections with SARS-CoV-2 have been detected. Both companies have approximately 3000 parent animals [each].

The infections came to light from the early warning, the monitoring system in which animals are tested for the virus every week. The companies are [to be] cleared as soon as possible.

A total of 50 mink farms in the Netherlands have now been declared infected.

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[The spread of SARS-CoV-2 on Netherland's mink farms in the 2 southern provinces North Brabant and Limburg continues, in spite of the tightening of control measures as described in ProMED post 20200902.7740793 (addressing the experts' publication "Jumping back and forth: anthroozoonotic and zoonotic transmission of SARS-CoV-2 on mink farms"). Out of Netherlands' 120 mink farms, 50 have already been found infected. The mechanism of the continued circulation of the virus in the Dutch mink farms is yet to be revealed.

The above advisory experts' report has led to a government decision not to allow the restart of infected mink farms after culling. According to an earlier decision, mink farming was to be banned in the Netherlands, starting in 2024. This decision has been recently revised: Mink farming in the Netherlands is to be discontinued in the spring of 2021.

So far, COVID-19 has been reported in minks (*Neovison vison*) from 4 countries: Netherlands, Spain, Denmark, and the USA. In view of the high susceptibility of this species to SARS-CoV-2 infection, active surveillance in mink farms deserves consideration everywhere.

Information on the COVID-19 situation in farmed minks is expected from China, one of the world's 2 leading mink producers (the other one is Denmark).

Interestingly, Chinese authors published, in January 2020, a study into infectivity patterns of viruses hosted in many vertebrates, leading them to conclude that "infectivity pattern analysis illustrates that bat and mink may be 2 candidate reservoirs of 2019-nCoV" (Ref. 1). While this conclusion might be argued, it should encourage China's scientific community to attend to the situation in the local farmed mink industry.

China's version of Wikipedia, "Baiké" (which means "Encyclopedia") on Baidu, mentions in the entry for American Mink (*Neovison vison*) that it "may also hunt rabbits, squirrels, reptiles, bats, and snails"

([https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E7%BE%8E%E6%B4%B2%E6%B0%B4%E9%BC%AC/18511024?](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E7%BE%8E%E6%B4%B2%E6%B0%B4%E9%BC%AC/18511024?fromtitle=%E6%B0%B4%E8%B2%82&fromid=1177822)

[fromtitle=%E6%B0%B4%E8%B2%82&fromid=1177822](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E7%BE%8E%E6%B4%B2%E6%B0%B4%E9%BC%AC/18511024?fromtitle=%E6%B0%B4%E8%B2%82&fromid=1177822); thanks for this reference are due to Dan Silver). Subscribers are also referred to an observation from the USA (Ref. 2).

#### References

1. Guo Q, Li M, Wang C, et al.: Host and infectivity prediction of Wuhan 2019 novel coronavirus using deep learning algorithm. bioRxiv. 2020 (preprint); <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.01.21.914044> (not peer reviewed).
2. Goodpaster W & Hoffmeister DF. Bats as prey for mink in Kentucky cave. Journal of Mammalogy Vol. 31 (4) p. 457 (November 1950) <https://academic.oup.com/jmammal/article-abstract/31/4/457/860603?redirectedFrom=fulltext>. - Mod.AS

HealthMap/ProMED map:

North Brabant, Netherlands: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7759382,1250>

## See Also

COVID-19 update (387): Netherlands, mink, animal & public health, research 20200902.7740793  
 COVID-19 update (382): Netherlands, animal, farmed mink, spread, control 20200830.7730463  
 COVID-19 update (376): animal, ferret, mink, comment 20200827.7721923  
 COVID-19 update (366): animal, USA (UT) mink 20200818.7692815  
 COVID-19 update (363): animal, Denmark (ND) Netherlands (NB,LI) mink, spread 20200817.7687830  
 COVID-19 update (340): animal, China, enviro monitoring, Netherlands (NB), mink 20200801.7635820  
 COVID-19 update (334): animal, Netherlands, mink, spread, UK, cat, 1st rep, OIE 20200727.7617582  
 COVID-19 update (324): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread 20200719.7591013  
 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 (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 (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 (215): Netherlands (NB) animal, mink-to-human, epidem., control 20200527.7385049  
 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 (177): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, Spain (CT) cat susp 20200512.7328587  
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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