



World Organisation for Animal Health
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Update 5 on the COVID-19 situation in mink in Denmark

Dear Dr. Monique Eloit,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Following my letter to you on 29 September 2020, I hereby update you on the developments regarding SARS-CoV-2 in mink farms in Denmark.

The situation has evolved rapidly and as of 9 October 2020, SARS-CoV-2 has been confirmed in 94 mink farms in Denmark and has spread to other parts of Jutland, including the municipalities of Hjørring, Frederikshavn, Brønderslev, Læsø, Vesthimmerlands, Aalborg and Jammerbugt in Northern Jutland as well as Ikast-Brande and Ringkøbing in Central Jutland.

As you are well aware, DVFA launched a new control and surveillance strategy as of 20 July 2020. In my update from 29 September 2020, you were informed about additional activities being initiated to mitigate the situation. This included additional controls and enforcement initiatives from DVFA regarding requirements relating to the use of personal protection equipment (PPE), application of hygiene requirements at farm level, and intensified frequency of sampling (twice a week) of all dead mink in a herd in the relevant municipalities.

However, the significant increase in infected farms and the derived risk for the public health has proven that these initiatives have not been enough.

Therefore, the Danish government has decided to start culling mink on all infected farms as well as mink on farms within a radius of 7.8 kilometres from an infected farm. This will affect more than 200 farms. This operation will involve personnel and support from e.g. the Danish Emergency Management Agency and several other authorities.

Infected farms will be culled taking strict biosecurity measures as with other infectious animal diseases. Farmers themselves will cull the non-infected farms under supervision of the DVFA.

Due to the scope and the above-mentioned precautionary measures that need to be in place, the culling process has been initiated and will continuously be evaluated.

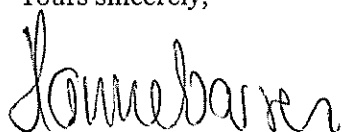
This new culling strategy has been initiated in combination with other actions to prevent further spread of SARS-CoV-2 among mink farms. These actions beings:

Firstly, the outbreaks epidemiological investigation continues in order to clarify the transmission routes, including sampling of feed and feed deliveries, and evaluation of possible sources of infection between farms such as mink trade, use of same craftsmen companies, veterinarians and others. Furthermore, pets and other relevant farm animals on infected farms have been tested by the DVFA. Except for one dog, all results came back negative. From September to December 2020 samples will be taken from wild animals either shot or found dead near mink farms (mink, marten, raccoon dog, badgers, foxes and stray cats). Until now, the only verified source of infection is human contact.

Secondly, DVFA's additional controls and enforcement initiatives regarding requirements relating to the use of personal protection equipment (PPE) and application of hygiene requirements at farm level – as mentioned in my letter of 29 September 2020 – are upheld.

I will keep you posted about any further developments concerning this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any need for clarification.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Hanne Larsen
Chief Veterinary Officer, DVFA

This information is transmitted in the context of Article 1.1.6 in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code in order to provide the relevant information arising from field observations to enable the OIE to have more clarity on which animal species are susceptible to infection and may potentially be involved in the epidemiology of the human disease through.