



# Ministero della Salute

SEGRETARIATO GENERALE

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA SANITA' ANIMALE E  
DEI FARMACI VETERINARI

*Sanità animale e gestione operativa del Centro nazionale di lotta ed  
emergenza contro le malattie animali e unità centrale di crisi*

Registro – Classif: P-I.1.a.e/2020/1  
Allegati:

Monique Eloit  
Director General  
World Organisation for Animal Health  
12, Rue de Prony 75017  
Paris  
FRANCE  
[OIE\\_DG\\_OFFICE@oie.int](mailto:OIE_DG_OFFICE@oie.int)

**Subject: positive result for SARS-CoV2 in a mink herd located in Cremona Province, Lombardia Region – information pertinent to chapter 1.1.6. OIE code**

Dear Director General, Dear Dr. Eloit,

In the framework of the surveillance activity aimed to detect the SARS-COV2 in the few minks farms located in Italy (in total 9 farms distributed in Lombardia, Veneto, Emilia Romagna and Abruzzo), Italy has detected on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August a positive case, ex PCR RT, in one mink from a farm (26000 animals) located in Lombardia region, Cremona province, checks carried out due to a positive Covid 19 case detected in a worker within the same farm.

The result came out after 20 dead minks were submitted to diagnostic control in order to evaluate the epidemiological situation in the farm. Waiting for the first results, the farm was put under movement control for animal, manure and vehicles. This first batch of controls led to identify only one weak positive PCR in a mink carcass without any anatomopathological finding.

After the first positive result and in order to have a clear picture of the situation, an epidemiological investigation was carried out which showed that all the animals in the farm were in good health conditions without any suspect symptoms.

Furthermore, the whole farm was submitted to an intensified surveillance which encompassed:

- a) two clinical inspection every week in each shed;
- b) two weekly sampling of 30 oropharyngeal and fecal swabs;
- c) virological control on all dead animals.

A total of 1124 test were carried out which led to identify only one another weak positive faecal swab. In both positive samples the genetic material was insufficient to carry out the genotyping of the virus

To summarize:

- 1) clinical controls were not able to identify any suspect clinical sign;
- 2) 1124 samples tested virus negative;
- 3) 340 carcasses of dead minks also tested negative;

On the basis of the above elements and according to the report by the national laboratory encharged of diagnostic test and epidemiological investigation, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della

Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna, issued on October 28<sup>th</sup> we can assume that virus circulation did not take place in the farm and that the diagnostic results could be attributed to a contamination or aspecific response.

Italy will continue consistently to carry out the surveillance activities and will communicate any further information or development, should there be developments of the situation.

The Chief Veterinary Officer  
Dr. Pierdavide Lecchini

