

Dear Monique, dear Bernard and other colleagues

I hope this information finds you well.

Sweden has confirmed the first case of infection with SARS-CoV-2 in mink at a farm in the southeast part of the country, in the County of Blekinge. In this area, approximately 20 of Sweden's 40 mink farms are situated.

The affected farm has approximately 9500 minks for fur production.

Dead minks from the farm were collected and sampled with swabs from the oral cavity and pharynx and analysed with real-time PCR, as part of a recently initiated surveillance based on animals found dead. One out of three minks fell out weakly positive on Friday 16 October. Organs from the same animals were also analysed with real-time PCR of which all were negative. Another five dead minks were therefore collected and sampled and analysed in the same way of which all tests fell out positive late Friday evening, 23 October. A slight increase in mortality could be observed during the same period, but no other clinical signs of disease.

The source of the infection has not been determined yet. Notably, however, the owner of the farm and his father have been tested for Covid-19 and the test results fell out positive Wednesday 21 October. Further analyses are ongoing in order to assess any association between the virus strains detected in samples from mink and those detected in samples from the people at the farm.

Movement restrictions and biosecurity measures are in place. We do not intend to cull the animals at this point.

The surveillance of mink farms in Sweden is ongoing.

This information is transmitted to the OIE in the context of Article 1.1.6 in the 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.

On behalf of the Swedish CVO and OIE Delegate, Dr. Håkan Henrikson,

Yours sincerely,

Lena Hellqvist Björnerot  
Deputy CVO  
Sweden