

Van: 10.2.e (FVST)
Aan: 10.2.e)
Onderwerp: RE: COVID-19 developments in the Netherlands
Datum: zondag 26 april 2020 11:01:51

Well received Thank you
10.2.e

Sendt fra min Samsung Galaxy-smartphone.

----- Oprindeligt besked -----

Fra: "10.2.e)"
Dato: 26/04/2020 10.30 (GMT+01:00)
Til: "10.2.e (FVST)"
Emne: Fwd: COVID-19 developments in the Netherlands

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Begin doorgestuurd bericht:

Van: "10.2.e)" 10.2.e @minlv.nl>
Datum: 26 april 2020 om 08:12:29 CEST
Aan: "10.2.e <10.2.e @minlv.nl>
Onderwerp: Doorst.:^[FSI] COVID-19 developments in the Netherlands^[PDI]

Begin doorgestuurd bericht:

Van: "10.2.e)"
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Datum: 25 april 2020 om 20:46:54 CEST

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Onderwerp: COVID-19 developments in the Netherlands

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are still all safe and coping well with the situation.

First of all I enclose the translation of the risk analysis made by our human-veterinary expert group. The main and most important conclusion for you all is the following which is reassuring:

"In view of the very low global incidence of reports of sick SARS-CoV-2-positive pets (specifically cats), it appears that the likelihood of transmission from humans to animals (specifically cats) is **extremely low**, but it is possible in occasional cases. Although zoonotic transmission cannot be excluded, the impact on human health is estimated to be **negligible** in this phase of the epidemic, since effective human-to-human transmission is the driving force of the epidemic."

This letter is public information so you can use it or share it when helpful.

Secondly I would like to confidentially inform you about an important development in the Netherlands before we go public. In the Netherlands we have about 140 mink farms however we will phase out the mink industry in 2024 (for animal welfare reasons). We have the highest number of farms in the province of Noord Brabant, the area where we also have the highest number of COVID-19 patients. Yesterday, in Milheeze in the Province of Noord Brabant we have found a mink farm positive for SARS-CoV2.

The farm has 3 locations from which 2 locations on one street where they have a total of about 20.000 animals in 6 stables per location. Three animals from 3 stables from location 1 were sent to the animal health service because of increased mortality, lung and gastro-intestinal problems. The mink were tested for e-coli and pseudomonas and were found to be negative. 10.1.d [redacted]

The animals from the second location were not tested but showed similar symptoms.

Today we have found a second mink farm positive. This is a farm with about 7500 animals which had similar symptoms as the first farm: increased mortality and pneumonia. Five animals have been sent to the Animal Health Service and were all found positive. 10.1.d [redacted]

Together with my human health colleague (and many others) we have prepared the advice for the ministers:

1. We regard these currently as human to animal transmissions
2. We will put in place a reporting obligation for signs of COVID-19 in mink farms.
This is in the Dutch legal system something different than a notification obligation. Based on the reporting we can only do 2 things which is further research on the animals and an order not to move animals from the farm.
3. We will do research on and around both farms (see below for further explanation)
4. We will put up signs to advise (vulnerable) people not to walk or cycle near to

the farm at least until we have the results of the air-samples around the farm.

We will do following research:

1. Interviews with owners to get better insight in clinical picture and course of the disease.
2. Contact tracing of people that have been on farms
3. Contact tracing other mink farms
4. Make maps/floorplans of the farms with locations of diseased and dead animals
5. Euthanise (or collect dead animals) at least 20 mink per location for virus isolation to get insight in transmission routes (human- animal, animal-animal and animal-human). We need at least 20 strains for that, maybe more. We will do this weekly as long as we have clinical signs
6. Serological survey of the farms, repeat in 3 and 6 weeks, 60 samples per location to show prevalence of 5% with 95% confidence.
7. Collect dust and air samples outside the barns to check for virus.
8. Clinical inspections for farms close by.

Based on these results we will see whether we need to do further things or change the policy.

We will pay a lot of attention to communication. Main message will be that this is an

buiten reikwijdte

buiten reikwijdte

All the best

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