



COVID-19

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
actions

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Timeline: OIE response to COVID-19

January	OIE informal advisory group (sharing latest science and providing technical advice on implications of COVID-19 at human-animal interface)
February	Contribution to WHO R&D roadmap (animal source and mitigating risk of spill over events) Q&A first published (messages on trade) First reports to the OIE of animals infected with SARS-CoV-2 as an 'emerging disease' in animals Initiated an incident response mechanism (internal and external coordination)
March	Initiated concept for work program mitigating risk of spillover events (including risk-based standards and guidelines for wildlife trade) Guidance on Veterinary Laboratory Support to the Public Health Response for COVID-19 OIE Ad Hoc Group on COVID-19 and trade
April	Statement of the OIE Wildlife Working Group ('Wildlife Trade and Emerging Zoonotic Diseases')
May	Considerations for sampling, testing, and reporting of SARS-CoV-2 in animals Considerations on the application of sanitary measures for international trade related to COVID-19 OIE Technical Factsheet on SARS-CoV-2 infection in animals
June	Survey Member Countries – emerging disease/wildlife Special edition of OIE Bulletin Planning After Action Review of OIE's response



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SARS-CoV-2 reports (field findings) to the OIE by Members

February	China	Investigations – negative findings (multiple species)
March	Hong Kong Belgium	Dogs Cat
April	USA	Cat, tiger, lion, dog
May	Netherland France Spain Germany Russia	15 mink farms Cats Cats Cats Cat Cat
June	Denmark	Mink farm

Results of experimental (and field) animal infections with SARS-CoV-2

Species	Type of infection	Susceptibility (none/low/high)	Clinical signs	Transmission
Pigs	Experimental	None	No	No
Poultry (chicken, ducks, and turkeys)	Experimental	None	No	No
Dogs	Natural and experimental	Low	No	No
Cats (domestic)	Natural and experimental	High	Yes (none to very mild in some cases)	Yes, between cats
Tigers and lions	Natural	High	Yes	Yes, between animals
Ferrets	Experimental	High	No (very mild in some cases)	Yes, between ferrets
Minks	Natural	High	Yes	Yes, between minks and suggested from mink to humans
Egyptian fruit bats (<i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i>)	Experimental	High	No	Yes, between Fruit bats
Golden Syrian hamsters	Experimental	High	Yes (none to very mild in some cases)	Yes, between hamsters
Macaques (<i>Macaca fascicularis</i> and <i>Macaca mulatta</i>)	Experimental	High	Yes	Yes

Source: not known but probably wild animals

The Pandemic: sustained by human to human transmission

Animals: several species susceptible, infections reported (but not in 'food producing animals')

Implications of COVID-19 for animal health

Human to animal infection (predominantly) or animal to animal (mink farms)

Establishment of new animal reservoirs

Impact of inappropriate measures on welfare and biodiversity

Implications of animal infections for public health

Close contact with infected companion animals or farmed mink

Establishment of new reservoirs

Reintroduction from original reservoir

Recommendations of OIE ad hoc group on safe trade in animals and animal products

- **facilitate safe international movement** of live animals and animal products (accordance OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code)
- introduce **no** COVID-19-related sanitary measures **unless and until these have been shown necessary to protect human or animal health**, are **scientifically justified by a risk analysis**, and are **fully in line with relevant International Standards**
- continue implementing OIE standards under WTO SPS principles, and (where possible) **apply administrative flexibility** to minimize the impact that this pandemic may have on procedural aspects of trade e.g. allowing electronic certification, making allowances

- While the pandemic is spreading by human to human transmission, some animals have been shown to be susceptible.
- Disruptions to meat processing plants, food supply chains and food security have had serious impacts in many countries.
- The role of wet markets in disease emergence and spill-over events requires closer examination and action to protect welfare and biodiversity.
- Concerted, collaborative action between sectors at all levels is needed to combat COVID-19 and prevent future pandemics.