

**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

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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

10.2.e , DVM, PhD

10.2.e

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Begin doorgestuurd bericht:

**Van:** "10.2.e )" 10.2.e [@minlnv.nl](mailto:10.2.e@minlnv.nl)>

**Datum:** 26 april 2020 om 08:12:29 CEST

**Aan:** "10.2.e <10.2.e@minlnv.nl>

**Onderwerp:** Doorst.:<sup>[FSI]</sup> COVID-19 developments in the Netherlands<sup>[PDI]</sup>

Begin doorgestuurd bericht:

**Van:** "10.2.e )" 10.2.e  
 10.2.e [@minlnv.nl](mailto:10.2.e@minlnv.nl)>

**Datum:** 25 april 2020 om 20:46:54 CEST

**Aan:** 10.2.e [redacted] <[@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:@consilium.europa.eu)>,  
10.2.e [redacted] <[@ec.europa.eu](mailto:@ec.europa.eu)>"  
10.2.e [redacted] <[@ec.europa.eu](mailto:@ec.europa.eu)>, "10.2.e [redacted]  
[redacted] <[@ec.europa.eu](mailto:@ec.europa.eu)>" 10.2.e [redacted]  
[redacted] <[@ec.europa.eu](mailto:@ec.europa.eu)>, "10.2.e [redacted]  
[redacted] <[@ec.europa.eu](mailto:@ec.europa.eu)>" 10.2.e [redacted]  
[redacted] <[@ec.europa.eu](mailto:@ec.europa.eu)>,"

**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

10.2.e

10.2.e

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Dit bericht kan informatie bevatten die niet voor u is bestemd. Indien u niet de geadresseerde bent of dit bericht abusievelijk aan u is gezonden, wordt u verzocht dat aan de afzender te melden en het bericht te verwijderen.

De Staat aanvaardt geen aansprakelijkheid voor schade, van welke aard ook, die verband houdt met risico's verbonden aan het elektronisch verzenden van berichten.

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The State accepts no liability for damage of any kind resulting from the risks inherent in the electronic transmission of messages.

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[26-04-2020 10:14:55] 10.2.e : Berichten en gesprekken worden end-to-end versleuteld. Niemand buiten deze chat kan ze lezen of beluisteren, zelfs WhatsApp niet.

[26-04-2020 10:14:55] 10.2.e : Dear 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

Best regards 10.2.e

[26-04-2020 10:17:02] 10.2.e e: buiten reikwijdte

[26-04-2020 10:25:56] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

buiten reikwijdte

[26-04-2020 10:26:21] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[26-04-2020 10:27:29] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[26-04-2020 10:27:43] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[26-04-2020 10:27:54] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[26-04-2020 15:51:11] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[26-04-2020 15:56:46] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

[26-04-2020 15:57:11] 10.2.e : buten reikwijdte

[17-06-2020 16:52:21] 10.2.e : Hi 10.2.e

I see that you are going to cull the buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

[17-06-2020 18:46:02] 10.2.e : Yes government has decided to cull the animals. It Will take place Thursday as a precautionary measure. We are developing test.strategy now, assume we begin friday. Working together with health authorities, who will test people working in farms and their families. We have 1200 farms in DK. Will try to keep you informed and buiten reikwijdte

[17-06-2020 18:53:19] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[20-06-2020 22:23:19] 10.2.e : Today Government published the second positive mink farm in DK. The health authorities pointed it to us because 10.1.d We tested 46 mink and found One positive for Virus and One positive AB. We have decided to re-test Monday before it is decided what to do with the farm.

Next week we also test 10 prc of the farms in DK. Randomly as a screening to see if mink production is a reservoir and to decide further strategy with

\_chat

health authorities.

buiten reikwijdte

[20-06-2020 22:28:06] 10.2.e

We have found 2 others positive, 16 and 17, all in same region. Official samples collected today

buiten reikwijdte

[20-06-2020 22:32:51] 10.2.e

buiten reikwijdte

[21-06-2020 13:41:54] 10.2.e

: buiten reikwijdte

[21-06-2020 14:38:51] 10.2.e

: buiten reikwijdte

[21-06-2020 15:52:48] 10.2.e

:

[22-06-2020 14:08:06] 10.2.e

: buiten reikwijdte

[27-06-2020 10:25:44] 10.2.e

: The ministers are still discussing whether the second positive farm needs to be culled too. Virus is Very closely related to the first One.

We have a third farm under susp. Results will come Monday. The tests in the screening are all performed, 120 farms. First 31 are negative. buiten reikwijdte

[27-06-2020 11:04:55] 10.2.e

buiten reikwijdte

We do not have suspicions anymore. Will have the molecular sequences this weekend hopefully. buiten reikwijdte

This week we have had lots of discussions on the manure, what to do with the puppies etc. buiten reikwijdte

[02-07-2020 19:54:35] 10.2.e

We have farm 18 positive, 10.1.d

Severe clinical signs in this farm. Culling tomorrow.

[02-07-2020 23:45:10] 10.2.e

and thanks for info. We are culling the third farm tomorrow. Today we finished a report for ministers and Parliament together with health authorities. We assess that there is no need to continue culling because of measures taken with regards to hygiene, masks, bath, continued surveillance and because the Only three positive farms are linked together with local elderly Home and loyal society. buiten reikwijdte

[06-07-2020 21:16:06] 10.2.e

buiten reikwijdte

[06-07-2020 21:17:41] 10.2.e

: buiten reikwijdte

[06-07-2020 21:23:30] 10.2.e

: buiten reikwijdte

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[06-07-2020 21:29:23] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[06-07-2020 21:29:55] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[06-07-2020 21:33:35] 10.2.e en: buiten reikwijdte

[06-07-2020 21:34:49] 10.2.e : Thanks  
buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 11:52:24] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 11:55:21] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 11:55:36] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 11:55:39] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 11:56:10] 10.2.e : I have 3 new mink suspicions.  
buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 11:56:28] 10.2.e : Numbers 21-23  
11.1

[08-07-2020 11:59:57] 10.2.e : We are testing another farm in a completely  
different area. ITS sad. buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:00:34] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:03:02] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:03:14] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:28:36] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte ible.

The ministers published yesterday, that as soon as we have issued a knew order  
with a lot of instructions to people in farms, culling of positive mink farms  
Will no longer take place.

buiten reikwijdte

buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:32:27] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:33:13] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte  
buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:33:56] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:37:06] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte



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[08-07-2020 12:37:38] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:38:06] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:38:29] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:39:44] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:39:47] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-07-2020 12:42:03] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[16-07-2020 10:42:56] 10.2.e : Hi 10.2.e

All well?

buiten reikwijdte number of infections still increases, 25 now. buiten reikwijdte

[16-07-2020 10:43:01] 10.2.e : <buiten reikwijdte

[16-07-2020 14:10:37] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

We are doing ok so far regarding mink. The regulation with all the restrictions on farms, and with the demands for surveillance is now in place. So we will see in 2 or 3 weeks time if the positive farms are narrowed to the one region and the same type.

buiten reikwijdte

I will keep you posted on the development in DK.

buiten reikwijdte 10.2.e

buiten reikwijdte

How are you going to manage the farms when you will not cull anymore? We may learn from that. In the NL we decided not to preventively cull, we will wait until after all weaning and vaccination activities and then see whether we still have infections.

buiten reikwijdte

We had infection no 36 today <sup>11.1</sup> . Minister wants to investigate preemptive culling. buiten reikwijdte

[18-08-2020 22:46:26] 10.2.e . buiten reikwijdte

. 36 is a huge Number... yes we have found the 4. Farm now. And it isn't

\_chat  
culled. A Lot of restrictions but not culled. buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e  
[19-08-2020 08:54:18] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[28-08-2020 16:19:01] 10.2.e : 10.2.e . buiten reikwijdte  
Nederlands is ending the breeding of mink by March next  
Year?  
buiten reikwijdte

- 10.2.e  
[28-08-2020 16:23:43] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[28-08-2020 16:24:56] 10.2.e : The idea is that they will stop  
after November but we need to change the law so that will take a bit longer  
[03-09-2020 17:40:40] 10.2.e . Things are developing  
in wrong direction i DK. 9 farms are infected. The first 3 were culled. All in  
the same area in Northern part of Jutland. buiten reikwijdte

[03-09-2020 17:43:29] buiten reikwijdte

I just recieved the results of the last 2 suspicions, we have 50 now <sup>11.1</sup>

[06-09-2020 20:21:53] 10.2.e : I don't Know what to Say. We are still  
waiting for the health authorities to make up there minds about the latest  
development. If we have the same development as you I don't Know what to do. I  
mean we have 1100 farms and we simply cant cull all of them. We have one more  
suspicion since friday. We are testing Tomorrow.  
I Think we Will step up and decide early warning surveillance every week in  
that particular ar a. buiten reikwijdte

[06-09-2020 20:35: 5] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

it is here also in one area, above the rivers we have  
nothing. buiten reikwijdte

buiten reikwijdte

[07-09-2020 09:15:38] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[07-09-2020 09:18:47] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e  
[07-09-2020 09:35:15] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte  
[07-09-2020 09:40:02] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte



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buiten reikwijdte

[07-09-2020 09:57:44] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[17-09-2020 08:29:50] 10.2.e

buiten reikwijdte

[17-09-2020 08:31:46] 10.2.e : <bijgevoegd:<sup>b</sup>

[17-09-2020 08:32:41] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[17-09-2020 13:55:06] 10.2.e : Yes its spreading in that area. Almost all of them get feed from the same truck. We Got updated riskassessment yesterday and still no indication of wild animals or birds playing any role. 11.1

We are establishing a local outbreak group now , and initiating more inspections to See if They comply with regulation. Government is discussing the situation Today. buiten reikwijdte

[17-09-2020 14:06:09] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[17-09-2020 14:38:07] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[24-09-2020 11:28:36] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[30-09-2020 11:00:14] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[01-10-2020 10:49:42] 10.2.e : Yes, we have to many now, Government is discussing again tomorrow. It has spread to an island in the Northern part. And it is slowly also moving further South.

buiten reikwijdte

It would be great if we also could talk regionalisation, next time we set up a meeting about mink.

[01-10-2020 22:36:26] 10.2.e : Culling is now strategy in DK, al infected farms and surrounding farms as well. buiten reikwijdte. Announced at pressmeeting today

[02-10-2020 07:06:10] 10.2.e : 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[02-10-2020 07:24:28] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[05-10-2020 09:37:01] 10.2.e 10.2.e how buiten reikwijdte

[05-10-2020 22:46:22] 10.2.e : Hi 10.2.e not good. Its developing to fast. Culling begins wednesday I suppose. With contaminated farms and surrounding farms we are close to 200 farms now. Right now we are discussing compensation which is difficult to land...

buiten reikwijdte

[06-10-2020 08:12:53] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

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buiten reikwijdte

[06-10-2020 08:13:22] 10.2.e : If you need any compensation info or other info from our side please let me know.

[06-10-2020 08:13:51] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 07:41:37] 10.2.e

I see on the website that you have a second region infected, buiten reikwijdte

We have big discussions about the compensation as well here however we do not have the problem of non infected farms since we do not pre-emptively cull. If you need any info from our side please let me know.

Here the spread continues as well, we have 64 today.

buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

[08-10-2020 16:52:59] 10.2.e . It has spread to south of the Limfjord. The culling has started today. Only two farms Because we had to get access with help from police. It is 150 farms we need culling as quick as possible. I am informing goverment tomorrow morning, and after that hosting big information meetings with farmers on Skype.

11.1 en 10.2.a

buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 16:53:58] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 16:57:54] 10.2.e : 11.1 en 10.2.a

[08-10-2020 16:58:39] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 16:59:45] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 17:00:56] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 17:19:16] 10.2.e :

[08-10-2020 17:23:27] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

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buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 17:26:44] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 17:28:21] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 17:29:10] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 17:29:22] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 17:29:46] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 17:32:31] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[08-10-2020 17:34:33] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[10-10-2020 08:18:53] 10.2.e :

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/thousands-mink-dead-coronavirus-covid-19-disease-outbreak-utah-wisconsin-fur-farms/>

[10-10-2020 09:55:05] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[10-10-2020 09:56:32] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[10-10-2020 11:21:01] 10.2.e : Culling continues. And a lot of political pressure on minister to compensate more from one side of parliament and pressure to compensate less from the other side. 😞

Because of that minkowners demonstrate, block the doors, making it go slowly... But we continue. buiten reikwijdte 10.2.e

[10-10-2020 11:25:48] 10.2.e : Maybe good to know, we compensate less than you do as far as we can see from the public info.

[10-10-2020 11:26:47] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[14-10-2020 15:53:49] 10.2.e , buiten reikwijdte

We have

2 new suspicions, 65 et 66

[15-10-2020 07:07:00] 10.2.e . 64 infected farms in Netherlands... I Hope that doesn't mean, that we reach 450 in DK right now we have 89 infected.

But its tough because of resistance from farmers. Culling is therefore Going slowly. Its Also a big setup for each infected farm due to the protective gear. buiten reikwijdte

[15-10-2020 07:11:42] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

How long is the culling

\_chat

going to take? buiten reikwijdte

[15-10-2020 23:04:04] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

We had the first positive results in flies tested this week.

[16-10-2020 08:09:06] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

buiten reikwijdte

[16-10-2020 08:16:38] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[18-10-2020 16:21:15] 10.2.e :

buiten reikwijdte

[23-10-2020 08:30:58] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte 10.2.e

buiten reikwijdte

[23-10-2020 08:31:25] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[04-11-2020 06:38:57] 10.2.e . I need to cancel our participation in the meeting today. This is confidential: Today primeminister will announce stop for minkproduction in DK. All farms will be culled. The defence ministry Will take over. 11.1

So far and since 8 oct 140 farms are culled and 70 is in process. We have done that working with the farmers. But it needs to move faster. Reason is a preliminary study in virus from one person but the Health authorities has decided to go with it. I Will try an get in contact with you later

[04-11-2020 06:41:54] 10.2.e

Have been thinking of you a lot lately.... what a difficult time for you. I understand completely, do what you need to do and we will get in touch later. Did you find something important in this person? We have at least 66 people infected related to farms, not sure whether mink-human or human-human.

[04-11-2020 06:43:17] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[04-11-2020 06:45:10] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

?

[04-11-2020 06:45:55] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[04-11-2020 06:47:41] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[04-11-2020 06:47:56] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[04-11-2020 06:48:25] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[04-11-2020 06:48:57] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

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[04-11-2020 06:50:47] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[04-11-2020 09:19:40] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[04-11-2020 22:01:05] 10.2.e : Hi...buiten reikwijdte

[05-11-2020 12:40:20] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[05-11-2020 12:43:19] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[05-11-2020 13:21:52] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[06-11-2020 06:53:31] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[09-11-2020 16:05:17] 10.2.e  
buiten reikwijdte

[09-11-2020 21:32:33] 10.2.e . buiten reikwijdte - have  
you banned export or intracommunity trade of living minks? Best regards 10.2.e

[09-11-2020 21:36:49] 10.2.e : Well yes, by having a transport ban  
we did yes, only we have not mentioned it as a export ban...

[11-11-2020 13:32:49] 10.2.e : 10.2.e . buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

[11-11-2020 13:38:28] 10.2.e

[12-11-2020 19:56:21] 10.2.e : 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

[13-11-2020 16:20:49] 10.2.e :

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-greece-mink-idUSKBN27T1AN>

[17-11-2020 12:20:59] 10.2.e : 10.2.e . Do you allow skinning of  
animals from infected farms? Er dont due to ABP

[17-11-2020 12:23:50] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

[17-11-2020 13:04:38] 10.2.e : Infected farms are culled and  
infected animals go to the rendering. We only let skins that were in the  
freezer already before this whole crisis to leave the far s.

[17-11-2020 13:05:11] 10.2.e :

[20-11-2020 14:53:56] 10.2.e buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

\_chat

[20-11-2020 14:57:45] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

Btw we have farm 70 suspected outside the risk region. Bad news

[20-11-2020 14:58:47] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[20-11-2020 15:05:29] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[20-11-2020 15:05:52] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

[23-11-2020 11:06:45] 10.2.e

buiten reikwijdte

[23-11-2020 23:00:06] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte

buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

[24-11-2020 06:47:54] 10.2.e : buiten reikwijdte



**Van:** 10.2.e  
**Aan:** 10.2.e (FVST)\*  
**Onderwerp:** FW: Kabinet neemt OMT-Z advies verplichte stoppersregeling voor nertsenfokkerij over  
**Datum:** vrijdag 28 augustus 2020 16:33:12  
**Bijlagen:** [image001.png](#)

In Dutch but this is the information that was made public today.

**Van:** Rijksoverheid

**Verzonden:** vrijdag 28 augustus 2020 15:33

**Aan:** 10.2.e

**Onderwerp:** Kabinet neemt OMT-Z advies verplichte stoppersregeling voor nertsenfokkerij over

[Bekijk de online versie](#)



Zojuist gepubliceerd op [Rijksoverheid.nl](https://rijksoverheid.nl)

Zojuist, **28 aug 2020** om 15:00, verschenen.

Nieuws van Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit

## **Kabinet neemt OMT-Z advies verplichte stoppersregeling voor nertsenfokkerij over**

28-08-2020 | 15:00

Op verzoek van minister Schouten van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit en minister De Jonge van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport heeft het Outbreak Management Team Zoönosen (OMT-Z) opnieuw gekeken naar de situatie op nertsenbedrijven. Het OMT-Z stelt dat, ondanks het beperkte risico voor de volksgezondheid op dit moment, het gewenst is om verspreiding van het virus binnen de nertsenhouderij te stoppen. Het is onwenselijk dat het virus blijft circuleren op nertsenbedrijven aangezien het risico bestaat dat dit op langere termijn leidt tot besmettingen - via medewerkers - van mensen buiten de nertsenhouderij. Het OMT-Z adviseert daarom een verplichte stoppersregeling voor de nertsenhouderij. Het kabinet neemt dit advies over.

[Lees meer](#)

[Lees meer](#)

U ontvangt deze e-mail omdat u zich heeft geabonneerd op berichten van  
Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit op het e-mailadres  
@c\*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*i.nl.

[AFMELDEN](#)

[ABONNEMENTEN BEHEREN](#)

**Van:** 10.2.e  
**Aan:** 10.2.e (EVST)"  
**Onderwerp:** FW: compleet pakket Engelse vertalingen Kamerbrieven en Persberichten nertsenbedrijven  
**Datum:** dinsdag 8 september 2020 11:49:33  
**Bijlagen:** [News item of 19 May.docx](#)  
[Letter of 19 May.docx](#)  
[Letter of 25 May.docx](#)  
[Letter of 28 May.docx](#)  
[Letter of 1 June.docx](#)  
[News item of 1 June.docx](#)  
[Letter of 3 June.docx](#)  
[News item of 3 June.docx](#)

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Hi 10.2.e

Herewith I send you the complete set of letters to parliament and the press releases again, this is until the beginning of June.

I will collect the new information which is in Dutch also for you, we will get it translated in English but that takes a bit of time.

Best

10.2.e

**Van:** 10.2.e

**Verzonden:** maandag 8 juni 2020 14:32

**Aan:** 10.2.e

**cc:** 10.2.e

**Onderwerp:** compleet pakket Engelse vertalingen Kamerbrieven en Persberichten nertsenbedrijven

Dag 10.2.e,

Zoals afgesproken stuur ik jullie alle vijf vertaalde Kamerbrieven en drie vertaalde Persberichten m.b.t. de nertsenbedrijven toe. Het betreft de Kamerbrieven van 19/5, 25/5, 28/5, 1/6 en 3/6 en de Persberichten van 19/5, 1/6 en 3/6.

Ze staan ook op Government.nl.

*Letter to parliament on status of the research into COVID-19 on mink farms 19 May 20*  
<https://www.government.nl/documents/parliamentary-documents/2020/06/08/letter-to-parliament-on-status-of-the-research-into-covid-19-on-mink-farms-19-may-20>

*Letter to parliament on status of the research into COVID-19 at mink farms 25 May 2020*  
<https://www.government.nl/documents/parliamentary-documents/2020/06/08/letter-to-parliament-on-status-of-the-research-into-covid-19-at-mink-farms-25-may-2020>

*Letter to parliament on status of the research into COVID-19 at mink farms 28 May 2020*  
<https://www.government.nl/documents/parliamentary-documents/2020/06/08/letter-to-parliament-on-status-of-the-research-into-covid-19-at-mink-farms-28-may-20>

*Letter to parliament on status of the research into COVID-19 at mink farms 1 June 2020*  
<https://www.government.nl/documents/parliamentary-documents/2020/06/08/letter-to-parliament-on-status-of-the-research-into-covid-19-at-mink-farms>

*Letter to parliament on additional measures for mink farms 3 June 2020*  
<https://www.government.nl/documents/parliamentary-documents/2020/06/08/letter-to-parliament-on-additional-measures-for-mink-farms-3-june-20>

De vertaling van het recente OMT-Z advies wordt gedaan voor het RIVM zelf. Deze verwachten 10.2.e of ik jullie eind van de dag of anders morgenvroeg te kunnen nasturen.

Vriendelijke groet,

10.2.e

Communicatieadviseur

**Directie Communicatie**

**Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit**

Bezuidenhoutseweg 73 | 2594 AC | Den Haag | A-noord 2

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W [rijksoverheid.nl/lnv](http://rijksoverheid.nl/lnv)

## **New results from research into COVID-19 on mink farms**

**New research findings in the ongoing investigation into COVID-19 at mink farms suggest there has been a transmission of new coronavirus from mink to human. The investigation has also shown that mink with COVID-19 can be asymptomatic. Based on this new information, agriculture minister Carola Schouten and health minister Hugo de Jonge are introducing new measures.**

'These new findings have a major impact on mink-farm owners and staff and their families, as well as on local communities,' said Ms Schouten. 'I'm in close contact with all those involved.'

The virus that causes COVID-19 mutates relatively quickly. These changes to its genetic code can be tracked. By comparing the genetic codes of the virus in different animals and people, scientists can create a 'family tree' for the virus and gain more insight into when and where people and animals were infected. This type of tracking has been done in the case of infected mink and people. The virus found in one staff member on a mink farm showed similarities to that found in the mink on that farm. Based on this comparison and the position of that form of the virus in the family tree, the researchers concluded that it is likely that one staff member at an infected farm has been infected by mink.

In order to clarify this finding, researchers are now continuing to map the genetic family tree of the virus in infected people in the area surrounding the mink farm in question. This will allow them to build as complete a picture as possible.

According to the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) the risk of the virus being transmitted from mink to human outside mink sheds remains negligible. RIVM made this risk assessment previously, after no samples of air and dust collected outside mink sheds were found to contain any trace of the virus.

### **Measures**

Based on the new information, the government is introducing new measures on top of those already in force. Mink at all farms in the Netherlands will be screened for antibodies. In the interest of staff members' health, it is important to gain a clear picture of the situation at all mink farms. Screening will be compulsory and will be coordinated by the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA).

If a case is found at a mink farm, the same measures will be introduced as at other infected farms and staff members will be advised to use personal protective equipment at work. Furthermore, no visitors will be admitted to mink sheds on infected farms. Agriculture minister Carola Schouten had already imposed a reporting obligation on mink farm owners, veterinarians and staff at research institutes. That obligation will now be expanded, so that all symptoms pointing to COVID-19 must be reported to the NVWA. This is in addition to an existing ban on the removal of animals and manure from infected farms, a measure aimed at stopping the virus spreading to other farms.

### **Farm cats**

This ongoing research has revealed a close similarity between the viruses found on two of the infected mink farms. There are several possible explanations for this. On one of the infected farms, antibodies to the virus were found in three out of 11 farm cats. It is therefore important to examine the potential role of farm cats in transmitting the virus. Farm cats are feral or semi-feral cats that live out-of-doors on a farm. Pending further research, mink-farm owners are advised to ensure that cats cannot enter or exit the site.

### **Pets**

It is known that pets can contract COVID-19. The risk of people being infected by their pet remains small. RIVM's existing advice regarding COVID-19 and animals remains unchanged: keep pets indoors if anyone in your household has COVID-19-like symptoms and the animal may have been infected. If you are in any doubt or if your pet has severe symptoms, always contact your vet. RIVM's advice can be found in full at <https://www.rivm.nl/en/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/pets>.

# Initial investigation results: infections at three more mink farms

News item | 01-06-2020 | 16:30

Mink infected with coronavirus have been identified at three more farms. A suspected outbreak at a fourth farm is currently being investigated. Health minister Hugo de Jonge and agriculture minister Carola Schouten have reported these findings, based on the results of mandatory screening currently being conducted for all mink farms in the Netherlands, in a letter to the House of Representatives.

The Outbreak Management Team for Zoonoses (OMT-Z) has been asked to consider these new findings in formulating an advisory report on the risk that SARS-CoV-2 will continue to circulate on infected mink farms and thus, in time, become a permanent source of infection or reinfection for humans and animals. Ministers De Jonge and Schouten will use the advisory report to decide on Wednesday whether additional measures are needed.

Various options are currently being worked out in detail in anticipation of the OMT-Z's report. All conceivable measures will be considered, including the possibility of culling all mink animals at infected farms. Public health is always the main consideration.

Since 26 April 2020, infected animals have been found at a total of six mink farms, with eight locations, situated in the municipalities of Gemert-Bakel, Laarbeek, Deurne and St Anthonis. The suspected outbreak is on a farm in Venray. Measures were introduced at COVID-19-infected mink farms as soon as the first cases were confirmed at the end of April. These measures were later extended to all mink farms in the Netherlands. According to the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), the risk of the virus being transmitted from mink to human outside mink sheds remains negligible. The findings of the recent investigation have not changed this assessment.

*Press release of 3 June 2020 on the letter to parliament on additional measures for mink farms*

## **Government adopts advice to cull mink on infected farms**

**All mink on farms where coronavirus infection has been confirmed will be culled, starting this Friday. Infection has also been confirmed at the farm in Venray, bringing the total to 7 infected farms at 9 locations. Agriculture minister Carola Schouten and health minister Hugo de Jonge base their decision on the advisory opinions of the Outbreak Management Team for Zoonoses (OMT-Z) and the Administrative Coordination Committee on Zoonoses (BAO-Z).**

These advisory opinions point to the fact that the virus can circulate on mink farms for a long time, thus presenting a risk to human and animal health. The culling of animals on all infected farms should be completed in the course of next week. The government is also exploring the possibility of a one-off, voluntary cessation scheme for mink farmers who want to terminate their operations in the short term.

By culling mink on infected farms, the government aims to prevent mink farms from becoming a virus reservoir and a threat to public health. Mink kits are born in spring. Previously infected mothers will pass on antibodies to their kits. This protection decreases over time, so that the kits become more vulnerable to coronavirus infection as they grow older.

### **Measures on non-infected mink farms**

The measures introduced for all mink farms in the Netherlands earlier this week remain in force. They include a transport ban and a ban on admitting visitors to mink sheds. On top of these measures, the existing hygiene protocol will be tightened up very shortly, and will also address the issue of coronavirus testing for farm workers. In light of fur farming being banned in the Netherlands as of 2024, the government is also looking into a one-off, voluntary cessation scheme for mink farmers who want to terminate their operations in the short term.



**Van:** 10.2.e  
**Aan:** 10.2.e (EVST)"  
**Onderwerp:** documents  
**Datum:** dinsdag 8 september 2020 17:18:14  
**Bijlagen:** [advies-nav-2e-db-z-mens-dier-en-sars-cov-2.pdf](#)  
[regeling-tot-wijziging-van-regeling-maatregelen-sars-cov-2-bij-nertsen.pdf](#)  
[kamerbrief-over-sars-cov-2-infecties-bij-dieren-diversen.pdf](#)  
[verslag-deskundigengroep-dierziekten-10-07-2020.pdf](#)  
[advies-nav-omt-z-nertsen-en-sars-cov-2.pdf](#)  
[samenvatting-van-de-recente-bevindingen-van-de-welzijnscommissie-dierziekten-over-het-verloop-van-de-ruimingen.pdf](#)  
[stand-van-zaken-sars-cov-2-bij-nertsen.pdf](#)  
[advies-nav-75e-omt-z-over-de-situatie-rondom-de-covid-19-bij-nertsen.pdf](#)  
[eindrapportage-sars-cov-2-bij-besmette-nertsenbedrijven.pdf](#)  
[stand-van-zaken-sars-cov-2-bij-nertsen-omt-z-advies-en-voorgenomen-beleid-nertsenhouderij.pdf](#)

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Hi 10.2.e

As promised I herewith send you the total package of letters to parliament and expert advises from July and August. This is in Dutch but I will get it translated for you as well so I will be able to send the English versions soon.

buiten reikwijdte

Please let me know if I can do anything else for you,

All the best

10.2.e

**Van:** 10.2.e  
**Aan:** 10.2.e  
**Onderwerp:** DK minkvariant virus  
**Datum:** woensdag 4 november 2020 06:52:42  
**Bijlagen:** [Assessing cross-neutralization activity of spike mutants\\_afo.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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## Assessing cross-neutralization activity for SARS-CoV-2 spike mutants

SSI 02. November 2020, 10.2.e, senior researcher

SSI has so far identified seven unique mink mutations/changes in the spike protein the sars-cov-2 variants in mink and infected people with contact to the farms. We have tested the first variant from farm-1 and here we have tested a variant with four simultaneous changes in the spike. This variant is dominating farm-6, 9, 10, 14, 18 (CHCNR 99768, 10967, 92288, 91966, 97712) and in the present experiments we isolated this same mink variant virus from a human patient and used it to evaluate if this virus variant was sensitive or not to neutralizing antibodies (antisera) from a collection of convalescent individuals.

### Virus culture

A mink and human clinical sample containing the SARS-CoV-2 virus with the spike mutations of interest is identified. The virus is grown on mammalian cells, a monkey kidney cell line named VeroE6, from the clinical sample in two subsequent rounds. Prior to use, nucleotide sequencing of the isolated virus is used to confirm that the cell culture process did not introduce additional mutations that were not present in the original clinical sample. To date, all viruses evaluated for cross-neutralization of antisera were identical in the spike protein compared to that found in the clinical sample.

### Neutralization assay in Biosafety-3 laboratory

To determine if a mutant virus has reduced sensitivity to existing neutralizing antibodies, a predetermined amount of the mutant virus is mixed with serially diluted sera from patients that were infected with SARS-CoV-2 early in the Danish epidemic. The same sera is mixed with the same amount of virus from a strain that does not have the spike mutations. The virus and sera are incubated for 1 hour to allow the antibodies in the sera to bind to the virus. The virus/antibody mix is added to VeroE6 cells and incubated for 24 hours. Those antibodies that neutralize the virus will block its ability to infect cells and thus lead to a lower amount of virus present in the cells. After 24 hours, the amount of virus in the cells are measured by fixing the cells to the cell culture plate. This fixation process exposes the virus proteins produced during the infection of the cells. One of these proteins is the SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein. In a standard ELISA targeting the nucleocapsid protein, the amount of virus is determined. Using appropriate controls for each virus evaluated, a 50% cut-off value is calculated. The serum dilution at the 50% cut-off value is reported as the neutralization titer.

### Results

Convalescent sera from 9 people (10 serum samples were tested, but one was inconclusive, so only 9 are reported) previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 early in the Danish epidemic were used to evaluate cross-neutralization activity against a mutant virus. Each serum sample was tested in duplicate with the mutant virus and the reference virus (without spike mutations).

	Serum sample – Neutralisation Titer								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Reference virus	39	68	54	67	186	>1280	846	186	291
Mutant virus	28	5	9	30	67	>1280	606	54	177
% Difference	-28%	-93%	-83%	-55%	-64%	0%	-28%	-71%	-39%

The mutant virus resulted in reduced neutralization activity for 8 out of 9 sera tested when compared to a virus that lacks the spike mutations. The effect varied between the sera and ranged from a reduction of 25% to as high as 93% neutralization activity.

**In conclusion**, this indicate that mink virus variants with four of the seven identified mink-mutations/changes in the spike protein show less sensitivity (resistance) for neutralizing antibodies from persons with previous covid-19 infection. It is important to note that these results are preliminary and are in the process of being confirmed in an independent repeat experiment, but suggest that mink-specific mutation potentially can influence virus' sensitivity to protective antibodies.

Van: 10.2.e  
 Aan: 10.2.e  
 Onderwerp: FW: Confidential information - compensation Dutch mink farmers  
 Datum: vrijdag 20 november 2020 11:30:35

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Van: 10.2.e

Verzonden: zondag 15 november 2020 16:03

Aan: 10.2.e@mfvm.dk'

cc: 10.2.e@minbuza.nl'; 10.2.e; 10.2.e

**Onderwerp:** Confidential information - compensation Dutch mink farmers

Dear 10.2.e

It was nice talking to you. This afternoon we spoke about the mink sector and the situation in Denmark and The Netherlands. Because of this exceptional situation we are willing to share some information with you about the way we are intended to compensate mink farmers to quit three years earlier (in 2021 instead of 2024). I would like to draw attention to the fact that these are our provisional ideas of how to deal with this early closure of the sector, there are no official decisions made. For that reason, I will ask you to keep this information confidential. The compensation we are still working on at this moment is based on the fact that companies quit three years earlier. We will pay them a compensation for those three years.

The compensation elements are all based on databases with business information of the agricultural sectors of the Netherlands of the last 5 years. The mink sector is a quite homogenic sector, with respect to the production process, costs and deliveries.

- compensation for redemption of buildings, machines, tools and other costs (costs that a mink farmer has to make, even when there are no minks at the farm). This is our biggest post and will depend on the number of minks at the farm;
- compensation for ending contracts with regular staff (a percentage of total costs);
- compensation for income for a period of X months, because entrepreneurs have to find new income. The amount of income is based on general salary in animal husbandry.
- compensation for minks that are used for breeding, in consideration related to the current situation and our transport ban;
- the compensation will be reduced with an X percentage, because of the socially acceptable risks.

At some farms there are no animals anymore, because of Covid-19. We made some difference in the calculation of their compensation (because those farmers already have been compensated for their breeding material).

The framework for granting the compensation will be based on our national jurisprudence and practices with respect to compensation in case of legitimate action by the government. <sup>11.1</sup>

In addition to this I think it is good to mention that the reason for the compensation lies in the fact that the mandatory permanent closure is considered to be regulation of possession in the sense of Article 1, First Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights. With the compensation the required 'fair balance' is achieved. This permanent closure by law should not be confused with the other measures we take with respect to the COVID-19 contaminations, for instance the clearing of infected farms. Those measures are temporary and based on other legal competencies.

Hopefully this information will be helpful for you,

Yours sincerely,

10.2.e

*Beleidsmedewerker dierlijke duurzame ketens (team DDK)*

*- Policy officer sustainable husbandry -*

*Directie Dierlijke Agroketens en Dierenwelzijn (DAD)*

T: +31 610.2.e | E: 10.2.e@minlnv.nl

Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit

Bezuidenhoutseweg 73 | 2594 AC Den Haag

**Van:** 10.2.e  
**Aan:** 10.2.e  
**Onderwerp:** VS: DK comments - Reply to the World Animal Health Organisation regarding notification of SARS CoV2 in animals  
**Datum:** vrijdag 20 november 2020 17:43:02  
**Bijlagen:** [OIE EU SARS-CoV-2 November 2020 clean.doc](#)

---

Fyi

Buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

---

**Fra:** 10.2.e

**Sendt:** 20. november 2020 17:31

**Til:** 10.2.e

**Cc:** 10.2.e

**Emne:** VS: DK comments - Reply to the World Animal Health Organisation regarding notification of SARS CoV2 in animals

Dear 10.2.e

Buiten reikwijdte

[Redacted content]

Best regards, 10.2.e

---

**Fra:** 10.2.e <10.2.e@bmel.bund.de>

**Sendt:** 20. november 2020 16:17

**Til:** 10.2.e @fvst.dk>

**Cc:** [LIFE.3@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:LIFE.3@consilium.europa.eu); Referat 323 <[323@bmel.bund.de](mailto:323@bmel.bund.de)>; 10.2.e @diplo.de; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>; Central Krisestab (FVST) <[FVST-krisestab@fvst.dk](mailto:FVST-krisestab@fvst.dk)>; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e <10.2.e@fvst.dk>; 10.2.e @ec.europa.eu; Unterabteilungsleiter 32 <[UAL32@bmel.bund.de](mailto:UAL32@bmel.bund.de)>; Referat 322 <[322@bmel.bund.de](mailto:322@bmel.bund.de)>

**Emne:** Re: DK comments - Reply to the World Animal Health Organisation regarding notification of SARS CoV2 in animals

Buiten reikwijdte

[Redacted content]

10.2.e

Von meinem iPad gesendet

Am 20.11.2020 um 15:39 schrieb 10.2.e

<10.2.e@bmel.bund.de>:

Dear 10.2.e



Buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

Von meinem iPad gesendet

Am 20.11.2020 um 14:12 schrieb 10.2.e [@fvst.dk](mailto:@fvst.dk):

Dear 10.2.e

Buiten reikwijdte

Based on the information currently available on transmissibility, severity, immunity and cross-border spread, the overall level of risk to human health posed by SARS-CoV-2 mink-related variants can be determined as:

- low for the general population and moderate for medically-vulnerable individuals, which is no different to other SARS-CoV-2 strains (not related to mink);
- low for the general population in areas with a high concentration of mink farms and moderate-to-high for medically-vulnerable individuals living in the same areas;
- moderate for non-medically vulnerable individuals with occupational exposure and very high for medically-vulnerable individuals with occupational exposure.

Buiten reikwijdte

10.2.e

Fra: 10.2.e

Sendt: 20. november 2020 13:53

Til: 10.2.e ' <10.2.e [@bmel.bund.de](mailto:@bmel.bund.de)>

Cc: [LIFE.3@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:LIFE.3@consilium.europa.eu); Referat 323 <[323@bmel.bund.de](mailto:323@bmel.bund.de)>;

10.2.e [@diplo.de](mailto:@diplo.de); 10.2.e [@fvst.dk](mailto:@fvst.dk); 10.2.e

10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e  
10.2.e @fvst.dk>; Central Krisestab (FVST) <FVST-  
krisestab@fvst.dk>; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e  
10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>

**Emne:** SV: DK comments - Reply to the World Animal Health  
Organisation regarding notification of SARS CoV2 in animals  
Dear 10.2.e

Buiten reikwijdte

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

10.2.e

---

**Fra:** 10.2.e <10.2.e @bmel.bund.de>

**Sendt:** 20. november 2020 12:06

**Til:** 10.2.e @fvst.dk>

**Cc:** LIFE.3@consilium.europa.eu; Referat 323 <323@bmel.bund.de>;

10.2.e @diplo.de; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e  
@fvst.dk>; 10.2.e

@fvst.dk>; Central Krisestab (FVST) <FVST-  
krisestab@fvst.dk>; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e  
10.2.e @fvst.dk>; 10.2.e @fvst.dk>

**Emne:** Re: DK comments - Reply to the World Animal Health  
Organisation regarding notification of SARS CoV2 in animals

Buiten reikwijdte

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

10.2.e

Von meinem iPad gesendet

Am 19.11.2020 um 17:36 schrieb 10.2.e

10.2.e @fvst.dk>:

Buiten reikwijdte

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Best regards

10.2.e

Special Adviser

International Cooperation

+45 10.2.e [fvst.dk/kontakt](https://fvst.dk/kontakt)

**Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark**

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