

COVID-19 DISEASE GUIDELINES TO MINK FARMERS

Farmed mink have proved to be susceptible to SARS CoV-2, the virus causing covid-19 disease. Research from The Netherlands also indicates virus is transmissible from mink to human, and that farm cats have played a role in the transmission of virus between the four farms in quarantine at present. In extension the fur sector advice all fur farmers to be extra vigilant and careful to protect animals and humans against covid-19. We also advise farmer associations to have a dialogue with the competent national authorities.

On all mink farms we recommend:

- General covid-19 hygiene measures should be followed strictly (washing hands, keeping 1,5 meters between each other, sneezing and cough in your elbow, use tissue paper).
- People with symptoms of covid-19 (sore throat, colds, cough, fever) should not take care of mink.
- Cats should be kept out of mink farms to the extent possible.
- Only essential visitors should have access to the farm.

We recommend for mink farmers to take the following actions in case you experience increased mortality or animals with respiratory problems on the farm:

- Notify your local veterinarian if you detect any sign of contamination with SARS CoV-2 (respiratory problems or increased mortality).
- Immediately notify veterinarians, staff or other people who have been in contact with the mink.
- Discuss with your veterinarian how you can prevent the potential spread of virus within the farm in the best way possible.

If you have animals infected with covid-19 disease on the farm we advise mink farmers to follow these rules:

- Use a surgical mask covering nose and mouth (minimal requirement advised is the type IIR)
- Use of protection in front of the eyes, for example visor glasses.
- Use of protective gloves.
- The protective equipment should also be used when cleaning up manure.
- No use of pressure washers.
- Take off work clothes before leaving the farm.
- Work clothes should be washed at the farm on a daily basis.
- Staff should take showers before leaving the farm.

These guidelines are based on the ongoing SARS CoV-2 research on four mink farms in The Netherlands. The guidelines were first issued 26 April 2020. The latest update of the guidelines took place 26 May 2020.