



*Ministero della Salute*

SEGRETARIATO GENERALE

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA SANITA' ANIMALE E  
DEI FARMACI VETERINARI

*Sanità animale e gestione operativa del Centro nazionale di lotta ed  
emergenza contro le malattie animali e unità centrale di crisi*

Ministero della Salute

DGSAF

0024305-P-11/11/2020



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Dr. M. Eloit  
Director General  
World Organisation for Animal Health  
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Paris  
FRANCE  
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**Subject: SARS-CoV2 mink farm in Italy - elements of information pursuant to chap. 1.1.6. of the OIE Code. Update.**

Dear Director General dear Dr Eloit,

Following my note dated October 30<sup>th</sup>, I would like to update about the state of play of the epidemiological situation and the surveillance activity on a mink farm (26000 animals) located in Lombardia region, Cremona province.

After the previous detection of two PCR positive results as mentioned in my previous note, on November 6th a third weak positive case has been ascertained in a sample of faecal swab sampled in a different shed than that of the previous positive cases. As in the previous circumstance any viral circulation has been demonstrated. As far as clinical investigations, the minks in that herd have not been showing any symptoms or abnormal mortality.

In light of the overall risk assessment carried out amongst the national laboratory encharged of the diagnostic tests and the epidemiological investigation, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna, the competent General Directorate of the Ministry of Health and the local and regional Competent Authorities, the Italian Minister of Health has decided to submit the matter to the Higher Council of Health (Consiglio Superiore di Sanità), which represents the highest Italian technical and scientific panel, in order to assess any risk for public health as well as for health of animals, either within the management of this farm and in view of considering the whole issue of the mink breeding in Italy.

We are going to keep the OIE informed of any relevant new element as soon as we will have further information.

Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) and OIE Delegate  
*Signed* Pierdavide Lecchini\*

\* Firma autografa sostituita a mezzo stampa, ai sensi dell'art. 3, comma 2, del D.lgs.39/1993  
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