

MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

Virtual meeting, 10 June 2020 (10am Bangkok, 12pm Tokyo, via Zoom)

Q & A

COVID-19

- Are there any updates from OIE and OIE's position following the COVID-19 outbreak in mink farms in the Netherlands?
The OIE will keep posting the most up-to-date information received from the Netherlands on the [Q and A](#) under 'Findings in animals'. Up to 15 farms are now infected and the decision has been made to cull the animals. There will be another meeting of the OIE ad hoc Group on COVID-19 at the Human-Animal Interface in the coming days to assess implications for general guidance. Clearly mink seem to be very susceptible. There has also been a suspicion of mink to human transmission of virus.
- On the guidance being currently developed by the OIE/tripartite for wet markets, will this cover all wet markets or is it focussed on wildlife wet markets?
The tripartite (FAO, OIE and WHO) plan to release guidance focussed on improving risk-based hygiene measures around 'traditional' markets selling animals and animal products.
- What are the risks in using packing materials used for livestock products as possible source of SARS-CoV-2
Precautions for packaging materials are unnecessary over and above the observation of basic hygiene, such as ensuring it is clean and free of visible contamination. The report of the OIE ad hoc Group on COVID-19 and Safe Trade in Animals and Animal Products can be consulted [here](#), and the OIE Considerations on the application of sanitary measures for international trade related to COVID-19 can be found [here](#).
- What is the status of the resolution adopted at the recent WHO World Health Assembly wherein WHO agreed to pursue an investigation involving tripartite partners to ascertain the cause of COVID-19 and its pathways to human infection (source and the pathways of the SARS-CoV-2)? What is the status of OIE's collaboration in this exercise?
The OIE has reached out to the WHO to support implementation of the resolution. Since January 2020, the OIE has been closely collaborating with WHO, including the OIE being an advisor to the IHR Emergency Committee on novel coronavirus, the OIE providing input to animal-related workstreams of the [WHO R&D roadmap](#) for COVID-19, and WHO participating in the OIE's ad hoc Group on COVID-19 at the Human-Animal Interface.

African Horse Sickness (AHS)

- What is the source of AHS outbreak in Thailand?
- Which *Culicoides* species are involved in the outbreak in Thailand?
- Is Thailand able to import AHS monovalent subtype 1 vaccine?
- How do DLD Thailand determine the radius size of the infected zone and protective zone?
- For freedom maintenance, is it sufficient to do PCR? (As we have constraints in obtaining ELISA kits)
- The Onderstepoort vaccine - is it attenuated live or killed vaccine?

*Regarding AHS related questions, please refer to the webinars [here](#), which include detail information regarding AHS epidemiology, diagnosis, prevention and control, surveillance of *Culicoides*, outbreak investigation etc. The OIE will further consider organizing more webinars on AHS if new information becomes available in the future.*