

**To:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@rivm.nl  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thur 8/20/2020 2:44:21 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Culling  
**Received:** Thur 8/20/2020 2:44:22 PM

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@uu.nl>  
**Sent:** donderdag 20 augustus 2020 16:23  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>  
**Subject:** FW: Culling  
**Importance:** High

Nog even de argumenten uit DK op een rijtje hieronder bij navraag daar, zoals beloofd. Zij ruimen besmette bedrijven dus niet meer vanwege een beperkt risico voor volksgezondheid. Een belangrijk punt dat hieronder genoemd wordt is dat de reservoirvorming daar niet zien, terwijl wij die in NL wel zien. In het verslag zouden we dan ook duidelijk kunnen aangeven dat we op korte termijn risico's zien voor de gezondheid van mensen op de bedrijven maar dat die voor de rest van de populatie klein zijn (zie dia), omdat we zien dat de sector de infectie niet onder controle krijgt ontstaat er echter een reservoir en daardoor zien wij een risico op de langere termijn (kans op secundaire transmissie wordt groter, mutaties, etc.). De strategie van 1) versterkte screening van bedrijven in combinatie met beter management personeel 2) ruimen van besmette bedrijven en 3) stoppen van alle bedrijven na het pelzen is de preferente strategie om het lange termijn risico te niet te doen. Dan hebben we denk ik een consistent verhaal wat ook goed te rijmen is met wat elders gebeurt.

Groeten,

[REDACTED]

**Van:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fvst.dk>  
**Datum:** donderdag 20 augustus 2020 om 16:03  
**Aan:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@uu.nl>  
**Onderwerp:** SV: Culling

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks, I am doing well. Busy – as you surely are.

Yes – the policy has been shifted so that we will no longer cull infected farms.

The mink farms in Denmark are family farms with 1-3 permanent staff.

The human health authorities and experts in Denmark understand, that the infection risk for mink is infected people. All four infected mink farms were likely infected by the farmer or staff. We have no indication of farm-to-farm spread of the virus without a human link in the chain of infection

The concern from the human health side was that the mink population would become a permanent reservoir of SARS-COV- 2 for humans. So we argued that with the provisions made mandatory for every mink farm on 17 July, there will be minimal risk to humans.

The fundamental common understanding is that infection from mink can only spread to humans by direct contact or the airborne route within a 1-2 m distance.

Therefore the strategy has several basic principles:

- All mink farms must be under surveillance every 3<sup>rd</sup> week (submission of samples from 5 dead mink), and the disease in mink has been made notifiable.
- Every mink farm must live up to a strict set of biosecurity rules to prevent infection of the mink, including the use of protective equipment including surgical masks by staff. All mink farms are fenced compounds with restricted access. Staff can take a COVID19 test every week to avoid contact with mink if they themselves are infected.

- If infection is detected in the mink, in addition, staff must upgrade from a surgical mask to FP3 and shower out of the farm area.

With these provisions in place and complied with in the mink farms, the human health experts assessed that there will be a minimal risk of spreading of SARS-COV-2 from mink to society.

Three factors that I believe also were important was that

- the Danish Veterinary Food Administration will make controls to audit the compliance with rules on the mink farms
- phylogenetic analysis is done on all isolates from mink and humans to identify the chain-of-transmission in each infected farm
- we now have a "true" One Health institute where the veterinary experts and the human health experts belong to the same institution and work together on a daily. This group provides recommendations both to the Health authority and the Veterinary authority on the COVID-19 issue.

That's how I see it, at least. Let me hear your opinion..

Kind regards

5.1.2e

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**Fra:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@uu.nl>  
**Sendt:** 20. august 2020 14:00  
**Til:** 5.1.2e (FVST) <5.1.2e@fvst.dk>  
**Emne:** Culling

Hi 5.1.2e

Hope you are doing well. What I heard is that Denmark will not cull the infected mink farm that was discovered this week. Do you know the arguments why the policy has changed? I would appreciate your reply.

Best Wishes,

5.1.2e