

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Guidance to Prevent Respiratory Viruses like SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza on Mink Farms

Background about Mink

Neogale Mustelidae Mustelidae Neogale vison Neovison vison

Mink and SARS-CoV-2

Risk of Mink Spreading SARS-CoV-2 to People

Influenza (Flu) Viruses Affecting Birds and Mammals Including Mink

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Mink and Flu				
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Risk of Mink Spreading Flu Viruses to People

Recommendations to Reduce the Risk of Introducing Respiratory Viruses to Farmed Mink

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Recommendations to Protect Animals and People from SARS-CoV-2 and Flu on a Mink Farm

Recommended Biosecurity Measures on the Farm

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- Prevent ill workers and visitors from accessing the farm:

Clinical Signs of Respiratory Virus Infection in Mink Clinical signs of SARS-CoV-2

Clinical signs of flu

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Testing for Respiratory Viruses in Mink



Recommendations for Mink Producers and Workers Who Suspect Mink are Infected

Sample Collection and Testing of Mink for SARS-CoV-2 or Flu

Next Steps If SARS-CoV-2 or Flu Is Detected in a Mink Herd

Recommendations for Protecting Mink Producers and Workers around Healthy Animals

Recommendations for Protecting Mink Producers and Workers around Sick Animals

Stay up to date on vaccines.

Minimize contact with sick or dead animals

Always immediately wash your hands

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Use a NIOSH Approved[®] particulate respirator with N95[®] filters or higher, gown, gloves, eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield), and shoe or boot covers around sick animals.

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If there is a breach in PPE or other accidental direct contact with a sick animal or its urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit on exposed skin

If a worker receives a bite, scratch, or abrasion

For people who are exposed to sick animals or sick people:

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For someone who tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to sick or dead animals but cannot isolate due to animal welfare concerns:

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Recommendations to Educate and Train Workers to Reduce the spread of COVID-19 and Flu

Recommendations for Mink Farm Producers and Worker Protection around Carcasses and Pelts

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Information on Carcass Disposal

Additional Resources

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References:

Viruses

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