

## Covid-19 Lower Mainland Mink Farm - Incident Update December 17, 2020 @ 1810

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From: Knox, Graham G AGRI:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>, Dropko, Andrea (CFIA/ACIA) <andrea.dropko@canada.ca>, EMBC SWE PREOC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca>, HLTH MOC Duty Officer HLTH:EX <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Viney, Ursula E AGRI:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>, Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Last, Gavin AGRI:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>, Travia, David V AGRI:EX <David.Travia@gov.bc.ca>, Canitz, Shelley L AGRI:EX <Shelley.Canitz@gov.bc.ca>, Lyttle, Shawna AGRI:EX <Shawna.Lyttle@gov.bc.ca>, Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>, Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>, DeWith, Nancy (CFIA/ACIA) <nancy.dewith@canada.ca>, Zacharias-Homer, Christa ENV:EX <Christa.ZachariasHomer@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 17, 2020 6:10:08 PM PST  
Received: December 17, 2020 6:10:09 PM PST  
Greetings,

The following situation report is being shared to update you on the ongoing response to the outbreak of Covid-19 at a mink farm in the lower mainland.

- Work continues with responding agencies and organizations to finalize and approve safe operating procedures to enable the producer to safely provide animal care and complete harvesting activities
- Operations Section is addressing the need for authorization to allow for fuel delivery and garbage pickup on the impacted farm (as it is currently under quarantine)
- The Producer on the impacted farm has reported the loss of operation of one of the farm freezers
  - We are working to determine the impact of this on the farmer's current plan to euthanize and store harvested mink for future processing (as the farm is not currently permitted to undertake pelting operations)
- Planning and Logistics Sections are working to ensure required materials are available to support the surveillance plan that is being finalized
  - Planning Section is also liaising with FLNRO staff regarding the wildlife surveillance component
- Incident Command is liaising with the Fraser Health EOC Director to ensure strong ongoing coordination and communications between the human health and animal disease response to this incident
  - AGRI responders have been actively engaged with Fraser Health staff on the response since the beginning of the incident

Please contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this incident. Note that this information is being shared on a confidential basis for emergency purposes only and should not be distributed outside of your organization without prior permission.

Thank you,

Graham Knox  
Incident Commander – Covid Mink 2020  
*Director, Climate Action and Emergency Management*  
*Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch*  
*BC Ministry of Agriculture*  
Phone: 778-698-4949  
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[AGRI Emergency Management](#)

## Covid-19 Lower Mainland Mink Farm - Incident Update December 18, 2020 @ 1645

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From: Knox, Graham G AGRI:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>, Dropko, Andrea (CFIA/ACIA) <andrea.dropko@canada.ca>, EMBC SWE PREOC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca>, HLTH MOC Duty Officer HLTH:EX <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Viney, Ursula E AGRI:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>, Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Last, Gavin AGRI:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>, Travia, David V AGRI:EX <David.Travia@gov.bc.ca>, Canitz, Shelley L AGRI:EX <Shelley.Canitz@gov.bc.ca>, Lyttle, Shawna AGRI:EX <Shawna.Lyttle@gov.bc.ca>, Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>, Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>, DeWith, Nancy (CFIA/ACIA) <nancy.dewith@canada.ca>, Zacharias-Homer, Christa ENV:EX <Christa.ZachariasHomer@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 18, 2020 4:47:44 PM PST  
Received: December 18, 2020 4:47:45 PM PST  
Greetings,

The following situation report is being shared to update you on the ongoing response to the outbreak of Covid-19 at a mink farm in the lower mainland.

- Discussions occurred today with the impacted producer to discuss options for the acquisition and submission of mink samples
  - Exploring options for safe sample collection that would eliminate the need for the producer to provide the entire mink carcass for sampling
    - This would reduce the potential financial impacts to the producer by allowing him to retain the pelts for future sale
- Approval has been given for the producer to undertake pelting of the remaining mink that are ready for harvest
  - Currently the producer is euthanizing and freezing the harvested mink for future pelting due to staffing challenges
- The producer has reported that they were able to repair the farm freezer that broke down on Thursday
  - The producer is using on farm freezers to store the mortalities that were previously collected and for storage of the harvested mink for future pelting
- AGRI is working to identify and activate a responder to assist with the development of biosecurity protocols for the impacted farm
  - CFIA is assisting with subject matter expertise and advice with respect to biosecurity (as well as other areas of the response)
- Liaising with the Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian (FLNRORD) to coordinate on wildlife surveillance planning
  - Wildlife surveillance will monitor for the potential spread of the virus from the farmed mink into local area wildlife populations
  - Need to address sample collection and submission, biosecurity and quarantine implications, and Covid safety protocols

Only essential response activities will continue through the weekend. **The next incident update will be sent on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** unless there are significant developments to report over the course of the weekend.

Please contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this incident. Note that this information is being shared on a confidential basis for emergency purposes only and should not be distributed outside of your organization without prior permission.

Thank you,

Graham Knox

Incident Commander – Covid Mink 2020

*Director, Climate Action and Emergency Management*

*Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch*

*BC Ministry of Agriculture*

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AGRI Emergency Management

## Covid-19 Lower Mainland Mink Farm - Incident Update December 23, 2020 @ 18:58

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From: Knox, Graham G AGRI:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>, Dropko, Andrea (CFIA/ACIA) <andrea.dropko@canada.ca>, EMBC SWE PREOC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca>, HLTH MOC Duty Officer HLTH:EX <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>  
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Sent: December 23, 2020 5:59:01 PM PST  
Received: December 23, 2020 5:59:02 PM PST  
Greetings,

The following situation report is being shared to update you on the ongoing response to the outbreak of Covid-19 at a mink farm in the lower mainland.

- A mink sample submitted on Monday to the Animal Health Center in Abbotsford from one of the non-infected mink farms has resulted in a non-negative test result for Covid-19
  - A sample was sent to the National Center for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD) in Winnipeg on Tuesday for testing and official confirmation
    - A media release and background information have been prepared in the event of a confirmed positive test result from the NCFAD
    - A sample will also be submitted to the BC CDC
  - The farm was placed under quarantine by the provincial Chief Veterinarian to prevent the potential for disease transmission from this farm
  - The Producer has reported a number of mink mortalities and recent signs of illness (diarrhea) in mink on the farm over recent days
  - This farm has completed their mink harvesting activities for the year and have approximately 950 breeder mink remaining on farm at this time
  - We have not received any reports of workers being diagnosed with Covid-19 on this farm to date, however Fraser Health initiated Covid-19 testing of all mink farm workers in the province last week
  - Work Safe visited the farm on Tuesday and advised the producer that they will need to update their Covid-19 safe operating protocols
    - The producer is allowed to continue with critical animal care activities at this time
- The BC Mink Producers Association provided an update on harvesting activities at the active mink farms in the province
  - 3 of the 6 mink farms have now completed their harvesting activities and only have breeder mink remaining on farm at this time
  - The 3 remaining mink farms (including Infected Premises #1) are expected to complete their harvesting activities over this week or next
- Advanced Planning continues to develop a contingency plan for depopulation of mink based on 5 potential scenarios (note there is no current requirement to depopulate)
  - A decision matrix for euthanasia is being developed along with a resource list of required materials and personnel
  - CFIA staff are providing technical advice and input on depopulation planning

- Wildlife surveillance for Covid-19 in wildlife populations in the vicinity of the infected premises is being planned by the provincial Wildlife Veterinarian (FLNRO)
  - Background information regarding estimated escapement of mink from farms and on-farm containment measures have been shared for planning purposes
  - Responders received an offer of support and a copy of a draft wildlife surveillance plan from a wildlife scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry that has been passed on to the provincial Wildlife Veterinarian
- The BC CDC has now posted information on their [website](#) regarding the results of whole genome sequencing of the virus in 5 mink and 5 worker samples from Infected Premises #1
  - The results show the people and animals were infected with an identical or nearly identical strain
  - The strain detected has been circulating in people in B.C., indicating COVID-19 spread from people to animals and not the other way around
  - One common mutation was detected in both the animals and farm workers
  - BC CDC states that neither the mutation nor the outbreak present an increased risk to human health at this time

The **next incident update will be sent out on Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** unless there is a significant development to report on prior to that time. Please contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this incident. Note that this information is being shared on a confidential basis for emergency purposes only and should not be distributed outside of your organization without prior permission.

Thank you,

Graham Knox  
 Incident Commander – Covid Mink 2020  
*Director, Climate Action and Emergency Management*  
*Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch*  
*BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*  
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[AGRI Emergency Management](#)

## Covid-19 Lower Mainland Mink Farm - Incident Update December 30, 2020 @ 15:30

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Cc: Viney, Ursula E AGRI:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>, Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Last, Gavin AGRI:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>, Travia, David V AGRI:EX <David.Travia@gov.bc.ca>, Canitz, Shelley L AGRI:EX <Shelley.Canitz@gov.bc.ca>, Lyttle, Shawna AGRI:EX <Shawna.Lyttle@gov.bc.ca>, Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>, Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>, DeWith, Nancy (CFIA/ACIA) <nancy.dewith@canada.ca>, Zacharias-Homer, Christa ENV:EX <Christa.ZachariasHomer@gov.bc.ca>, Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX <Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 30, 2020 3:34:46 PM PST  
Received: December 30, 2020 3:34:47 PM PST  
Greetings,

The following situation report is being shared to update you on the ongoing response to the outbreak of Covid-19 at a mink farm in the lower mainland.

- Infected Premises #2 made a business decision to euthanize all of the remaining mink on the farm including their breeding stock
  - Remaining mink (breeders) on the farm were euthanized between December 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>
  - The farm remains under quarantine at this time and will remain so until all required follow-up activities are completed (example: cleaning and disinfection)
  - The required World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) report has been completed and was submitted today
- Infected Premises #1 has advised that they require some additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to continue safe operations on the farm
  - AGRI staff are checking on available PPE supplies at the Animal Health Center in Abbotsford which may be able to provide some PPE on an interim basis while the farm identifies a suitable supplier
    - AGRI staff are also looking into other sources of PPE that the farm may be able to source additional PPE from
- The BC Mink Producers Association advised this week that they would like to schedule a townhall event with incident response officials next week
  - The Mink Producers have a number of question and concerns they would like to discuss with AGRI and Health agencies
  - AGRI is developing a list of potential participants and an agenda for the event that will be discussed with the association to ensure it meets their needs
  - AGRI has reached out to Fraser Health and BC CDC representatives to select a date and time for the townhall during the week of January 4<sup>th</sup>
- Information Officer reports that there was some reporting on the incident following last Thursday's media release announcing a second infected mink farm in the province
  - An additional media interview request has been received and is being scheduled next week with the Chief Veterinarian
- Command Staff are actively reviewing staffing and incident response needs over the coming weeks
  - Key areas of ongoing activity include surveillance, epidemiology, protocols for mink breeding season (late February – early March)

The **next incident update will be sent out after the townhall event (TBC - week of January 4<sup>th</sup>)** unless there is a significant development to report on prior to that time. Please contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this incident. Note that this information is being shared on a confidential basis for emergency purposes only and should not be distributed outside of your organization without prior permission.

Thank you,

Graham Knox  
Incident Commander – Covid Mink 2020  
*Director, Climate Action and Emergency Management*  
*Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch*  
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## Covid-19 Lower Mainland Mink Farm - Incident Update January 7, 2020 @ 18:35

From: Knox, Graham G AGRI:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>  
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Sent: January 7, 2021 6:36:46 PM PST  
Received: January 7, 2021 6:36:47 PM PST  
Greetings,

The following situation report is being shared to update you on the ongoing response to the outbreak of Covid-19 at two mink farms in the lower mainland.

- Mink samples collected as part of the ongoing disease surveillance from one of the non-infected mink farms were analyzed and came back negative for Covid
  - All of the non-infected premises will be providing deadstock (some ongoing mortality is normal) on an ongoing basis for continued disease surveillance at these farms
- The Incident Commander met with ENV staff this week to discuss and address outstanding questions around the handling of waste materials at the infected premises
  - Currently no known concerns with the handling of the existing waste materials (Covid infected material are deemed to be hazardous waste based under ENV legislation) at the infected premises
- A cross agency meeting was held today with the various agencies involved in the response, BC mink farmers and other mink industry representatives
  - The objective of the meeting was to:
    - Provide an update on the current situation in BC
    - Provide an opportunity for BC mink farmers and industry representatives to ask questions and share their concerns with the responding agencies, and
    - Provide an opportunity for responding agencies to increase their understanding of the mink sector and how it operates to enable us to better support them through the response
  - Participants included representatives from AGRI, FLNRO, ENV, Work Safe BC, Fraser Health, BC CDC, CFIA, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, BC mink farmers, BC Mink Producer's Association, and the Canadian Mink Breeders Association
  - Key issues discussed included: human, animal and wildlife disease surveillance; safe operating protocols; financial recovery and supports; process for lifting quarantines at infected premises; disease information, and the sale and export of mink pelts
- Deputy Incident Commander (Ursula Viney) and the Provincial Chief Veterinarian (Rayna Gunvaldsen) provided a presentation to the agriculture FPT Regulatory ADMs Committee on the topic of SARS Covid-19 and mink today
  - The presentation provided an overview of the provincial response to the ongoing incident in BC, use of the Incident Command System for the response, key issues and initial learnings
  - The Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency provided additional presentations on their respective roles in regards to the BC incident, their related work and research



into the risks associated with Covid in mink and other animals, and information they have gathered from other jurisdictions (9 countries) where similar outbreaks of Covid in mink farms has occurred

- FLNRO Wildlife Veterinarian is continuing to work to finalize wildlife surveillance plans in order to commence sampling of wildlife in the vicinity of the two infected premises
  - Establishment of safe working protocols and PPE requirements for contract trappers (including consultation with Work Safe BC) to obtain samples for analysis
  - Securing appropriate permissions from the Chief Veterinarian to allow for access to the quarantine zones and from the owners of the two infected premises to access their private property
  - Key focus of wildlife surveillance is to monitor for transmission of Covid to wildlife from the infected premises and address concerns over the potential for a disease reservoir to be established among wildlife populations

The **next incident update will be sent out next week** unless there is a significant development to report on prior to that time. Please contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this incident. Note that this information is being shared on a confidential basis for emergency purposes only and should not be distributed outside of your organization without prior permission.

Thank you,

Graham Knox  
Incident Commander – Covid Mink 2020  
*Director, Climate Action and Emergency Management*  
*Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch*  
*BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*  
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AGRI Emergency Management

## Covid-19 Lower Mainland Mink Farm - Incident Update January 14, 2020 @ 17:56

From: Knox, Graham G AGRI:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>, Dropko, Andrea (CFIA/ACIA) <andrea.dropko@canada.ca>, EMBC SWE PREOC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca>, HLTH MOC Duty Officer HLTH:EX <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>  
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Sent: January 14, 2021 5:56:57 PM PST  
Received: January 14, 2021 5:56:58 PM PST  
Greetings,

The following situation report is being shared to update you on the ongoing response to the outbreak of Covid-19 at two mink farms in the lower mainland.

- Discussions are underway with regards to the lifting of the current animal health quarantine at Infected Premises #1
  - A critical factor in this decision will be the results of additional mink testing on this farm that is currently underway
- An inspection is scheduled for tomorrow (January 15<sup>th</sup>) at Infected Premises #2
  - Based on the inspection results the quarantine for this farm may be partially lifted with the exception of the mink production area and mink pelts (including any unpelted frozen mink carcasses)
  - This outcome would also be beneficial for the operation of a secondary business located at this farm
- Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) and BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (ENV) continue to work on the site specific disposal plans and protocols for the 2 Infected Premises
  - Signoff on the plans and protocols is anticipated to occur as early as tomorrow (January 15<sup>th</sup>)
  - ENV anticipates that the required hazardous waste regulatory sign off could occur either tomorrow or Monday (January 18<sup>th</sup>)
  - Disposal plans and protocols also require review by Work Safe BC (who are actively engaged) to ensure worker safety which could impact the above noted timing
- Fraser Health Authority (FHA) continues to work with the BC mink producers and AFF to address current issues and the restrictions implemented in order to protect public safety and human health
  - The AFF Incident and Deputy Incident Commanders met with the FHA's agency lead for the mink farm incident on Wednesday to discuss last week's multi-agency meeting with the mink producers, ongoing issues, and share information as we work to respectively to address both the animal and human health components
  - FHA has advised the operators of the uninfected mink farms in the province that they are now permitted to proceed with the sale and off farm movement of their harvested mink pelts
    - This has been a major concern for these producers since there are limited windows of opportunity to sell their pelts during the year
    - Producers were also extremely concerned that if their farms were to experience a Covid outbreak among their mink that the existing harvested pelts on their farms would be quarantined

- FHA continues to assess the request from mink producers regarding prioritizing of Covid vaccinations for mink farm workers to reduce the potential risks to human health from any infected mink
- AFF continues to work with FHA to clarify ongoing disease surveillance and scheduling of mink sample delivery to the AFF Animal Health Center for testing
- AFF has received additional epidemiological staff support from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in addition to the support the CFIA is already providing to the response (mink specialists, etc.)
- The President of the BC Mink Producers Association (BCMPA) raised a concern this week with regards to the timing of sampling results they are receiving
  - A new system has been put in place to provide results by email and phone follow-up to ensure results received
- The AFF Incident and Deputy Incident Commanders met with the President of the BCMPA on Monday to discuss last week's multi-agency meeting with the mink producers to address outstanding concerns and issues

The **next incident update is scheduled to be sent next Thursday** (January 21<sup>st</sup>) unless there is a significant development to report on prior to that time. Please contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this incident or you no longer wish to receive these updates. Note that this information is being shared on a confidential basis for emergency purposes only and should not be distributed outside of your organization without prior permission.

Thank you,

Graham Knox  
 Incident Commander – Covid Mink 2020  
*Director, Climate Action and Emergency Management*  
*Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch*  
*BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*  
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## Covid-19 Lower Mainland Mink Farm - Incident Update January 21, 2020 @ 18:10

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Sent: January 21, 2021 6:11:52 PM PST  
Received: January 21, 2021 6:11:52 PM PST  
Greetings,

The following situation report is being shared to update you on the ongoing response to the outbreak of Covid-19 at two mink farms in the lower mainland.

- Infected Premises #1 has begun submitting samples for testing that is necessary for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) to make a determination of disease free status among the mink on the farm
  - 65 mink samples were submitted this week to the Animal Health Center for testing
  - A second cohort of mink samples (approximately another 65) will be submitted for testing in 2 weeks
  - If none of the samples test positive for Covid, AFF will be able to move forward with making the declaration
  - Required cleaning and disinfection of the premises will also need to occur
  - Once disease free status is attained the farm will continue to submit samples as part of ongoing disease surveillance (i.e. same protocol that the uninfected mink farms are currently following)
- Infected Premises #2 was inspected on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Good progress has been made on this farm towards completing the required cleaning and disinfection (no live mink remain on this farm)
  - The quarantine order has been adjusted and is now restricted to the mink production areas (ex: areas where remaining carcasses and pelts are being stored)
  - The operator of the farm is now able to fully resume the operations of a secondary business located on the farm
- Work continues to determine the necessary measures required to allow for the release of mink pelts from the two infected premises
  - One option is to send the pelts to a processor in the United State who is willing and able to receive these pelts
  - The other option is for the pelts to remain in Canada for processing which would require testing to confirm the pelts are disease free, or be treated to eliminate disease, prior to sending them to a Canadian processor
    - Treatment options being explored (if the pelts are not found to be disease free) include heat treatment, ozone treatment, or another cleaning method that does not degrade the quality and value of the pelts

● s.13; s.16

- Representatives from AFF, FHA and Work Safe met with the President of the BC Mink Producers Association (BCMPA) today to discuss the current situation
  - BCMPA raised concerns about how they would feed and care for mink during the upcoming breeding and whelping season in the event of a new Covid outbreak on a farm if off farm workers access is restricted
    - FHA committed to working with the mink producers to address this concern
  - A concern was raised about the impact of an outbreak at one of the farms that provides a “feed kitchen” service for some of the other mink farms which would have impacts on the ongoing feeding of mink
    - BCMPA is working on protocols to mitigate this type of impact and will submit them to AFF once completed for further review
  - FHA has proposed the use of self-administered gargle tests for ongoing surveillance and early detection of Covid among mink farm workers
    - This proposal was well received by the BCMPA
- Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian (Helen Schwantje, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) provided an update on the planning for wildlife surveillance for Covid in the area of the two infected premises
  - The wildlife surveillance plan was developed based on advice from officials in Ontario and the United States (4 states have experienced Covid outbreaks on mink farms)
  - Two local trappers have been contracted to trap targeted species (including mink, other mustelids, and feral cats) for testing at the Animal Health Center, and at the federal lab in Winnipeg as necessary for genome testing
  - The trapping program is anticipated to begin soon and occur over a two week period (which will be modified as necessary)

The **next incident update is scheduled to be sent on Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup>** unless there is a significant development to report on prior to that time. Please contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this incident or you no longer wish to receive these updates. Note that this information is being shared on a confidential basis for emergency purposes only and should not be distributed outside of your organization without prior permission.

Thank you,

Graham Knox  
 Incident Commander – Covid Mink 2020  
*Director, Climate Action and Emergency Management*  
*Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch*  
*BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*  
 Phone: 778-698-4949  
 Cell: 250-886-4761  
[AGRI Emergency Management](#)

## Covid-19 Lower Mainland Mink Farm - Incident Update January 28, 2020 @ 17:15

From: Knox, Graham G AGRI:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>, Dropko, Andrea (CFIA/ACIA) <andrea.dropko@canada.ca>, EMBC SWE PREOC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca>, HLTH MOC Duty Officer HLTH:EX <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Viney, Ursula E AGRI:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>, Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Last, Gavin AGRI:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>, Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>, Canitz, Shelley L AGRI:EX <Shelley.Canitz@gov.bc.ca>, Lyttle, Shawna AGRI:EX <Shawna.Lyttle@gov.bc.ca>, Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>, Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>, DeWith, Nancy (CFIA/ACIA) <nancy.dewith@canada.ca>, Zacharias-Homer, Christa ENV:EX <Christa.ZachariasHomer@gov.bc.ca>, Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX <Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca>, Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>  
Sent: January 28, 2021 5:15:52 PM PST  
Received: January 28, 2021 5:15:53 PM PST  
Greetings,

The following situation report is being shared to update you on the ongoing response to the outbreak of Covid-19 at two mink farms in the lower mainland.

- Testing to declare Infected Premises (IP) #1 disease free continues
  - Some live animal and environmental testing have now been completed
  - No non-negative results were found through this testing
  - Additional samples and non-negative test results are still required for IP#1 to achieve disease free status
  - When disease free status is declared, IP#1 will then move to the Cleaning and Disinfection stage
  - No objections have been raised by the responding agencies to upcoming planned mink breeding activities at this premises
- The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has provided draft approval (required under the Hazardous Waste Regulation for the handling for infected hazardous waste generated at the IP#1) for the producer's review prior to finalization
- The quarantine in place for IP#2 has been amended to apply only to the mink enclosures and manure storage areas
  - Cleaning and Disinfection of the other areas of IP#2 has been completed and AFF sign-off has occurred
- IP#1 and IP#2 have both indicated that they wish to proceed with the sale and export of their harvested pelts to the U.S.
  - AFF is following up with all relevant agencies (provincial, federal, U.S. state and federal) for any consultation and additional information that may be required
  - Work is also being done to assess the need for disinfection of the pelts prior to sale and export and how this would be carried out if required
- Uninfected mink farms in the province are seeking Fraser Health Authority (FHA) approval for the movement of harvested pelts between some of the uninfected farms (this occurs in some cases for additional processing of the pelts)  
s.16
- Uninfected farms have also indicated that they are working on enhanced biosecurity protocols for their operations to further mitigate the risks of disease transmission on their farms
  - AFF has committed to review these protocols when they are ready to submit (Work Safe will also be consulted)

- AFF is working to secure additional internal or external capacity to review biosecurity plans and conduct cleaning and disinfection inspections

The **next incident update is scheduled to be sent on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** unless there is a significant development to report on prior to that time. Please contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this incident or you no longer wish to receive these updates. Note that this information is being shared on a confidential basis for emergency purposes only and should not be distributed outside of your organization without prior permission.

Thank you,

Graham Knox  
Incident Commander – Covid Mink 2020  
*Director, Emergency Management and Climate Change*  
*Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch*  
*BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*  
Phone: 778-698-4949  
Cell: 250-886-4761  
[AGRI Emergency Management](#)

## **Covid-19 Lower Mainland Mink Farm - Incident Update February 4, 2020 @ 17:15**

From: Knox, Graham G AGRI:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>, Dropko, Andrea (CFIA/ACIA) <andrea.dropko@canada.ca>, EMBC SWE PREOC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca>, HLTH MOC Duty Officer HLTH:EX <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Viney, Ursula E AGRI:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>, Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Last, Gavin AGRI:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>, Renaud, Michael AGRI:EX <Michael.Renaud@gov.bc.ca>, Canitz, Shelley L AGRI:EX <Shelley.Canitz@gov.bc.ca>, Lyttle, Shawna AGRI:EX <Shawna.Lyttle@gov.bc.ca>, Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>, Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>, DeWith, Nancy (CFIA/ACIA) <nancy.dewith@canada.ca>, Zacharias-Homer, Christa ENV:EX <Christa.ZachariasHomer@gov.bc.ca>, Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX <Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca>, Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>  
Sent: February 4, 2021 5:18:08 PM PST  
Received: February 4, 2021 5:18:10 PM PST

Greetings

The following situation report is being shared to update you on the ongoing response to the outbreak of Covid-19 at two mink farms in the lower mainland.

- Infected Premises #1 (IP#1) and IP#2 remain under quarantine at this time until testing requirements to demonstrate disease free status are met and cleaning and disinfection requirements are satisfied
  - IP#1 will undergo its next mink herd testing on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> as part of these requirements
- Both IP#1 and IP#2 also have waste management requirements still to be addressed for their farms
  - Once waste handling decisions are made by the producers and information is submitted for the remaining waste materials, the Ministry of Environment will review and issue approvals as appropriate
- The ability of the Infected Premises to export their harvested pelts to the United States is still being evaluated by state and federal agencies
  - s.16
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) is discussing ongoing human, mink and environmental surveillance at the Uninfected Premises with Fraser Health Authority (FHA)
  - The process for ongoing mink and environmental testing at these farms is being discussed including the respective roles of AFF, FHA and the mink producers
  - Ongoing human surveillance for Covid among farm workers on these farms is also being discussed (FHA previously required all mink farm workers to be tested)
- AFF has submitted a request to Health and BC Center for Disease Control for additional information on the level of risk mink farming represents vis a vis Covid
- The wildlife surveillance program for Covid in wild animals in the vicinity of the two Infected Premises has now completed its second full week
  - Trappers have been successful in trapping a number of animals in multiple areas, including 4-5 mink, 2 muskrats, 2 possums, a rat and a feral cat



- While only a few test results have been received to date from the trapped animals submitted for testing, all results received to date have been negative for Covid
- AFF Business Risk Management Branch staff continue to monitor the situation for any extra expenses or losses incurred by the producers which could allow for compensation under the AgriStabilty program

The **next incident update is scheduled to be sent on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** unless there is a significant development to report on prior to that time. Please contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this incident or you no longer wish to receive these updates. Note that this information is being shared on a confidential basis for emergency purposes only and should not be distributed outside of your organization without prior permission.

Thank you,

Graham Knox

Incident Commander – Covid Mink 2020

*Director, Emergency Management and Climate Change*

*Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch*

*BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*

Phone: 778-698-4949

Cell: 250-886-4761

AGRI Emergency Management

## Covid Mink 2020 - Interim Response Survey

---

From: Knox, Graham G AFF:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Pigg, Timothy AFF:EX <Timothy.Pigg@gov.bc.ca>, Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX <Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca>, Turek, Jake AFF:EX <Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca>, Schwalb, Michael ENV:EX <Michael.Schwalb@gov.bc.ca>, Crowley, Margaret L ENV:EX <Margaret.Crowley@gov.bc.ca>, Beruldsen, Josie ENV:EX <Josie.Beruldsen@gov.bc.ca>, Radke, Brian AFF:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>, Coombe, Michelle AFF:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>, Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>, Joseph, Tomy AFF:EX <Tomy.Joseph@gov.bc.ca>, Forbes, Christina D AFF:EX <Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca>, McQueen, Andrea AFF:EX <Andrea.McQueen@gov.bc.ca>, Ray, Jody AFF:EX <Jody.Ray@gov.bc.ca>, Edwards, Lesley AFF:EX <Lesley.1.Edwards@gov.bc.ca>, Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>, Redford, Tony AFF:EX <Tony.Redford@gov.bc.ca>, Geesing, Dieter AFF:EX <Dieter.Geesing@gov.bc.ca>, Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>, Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>, Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>, Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>, DeWith, Nancy (CFIA/ACIA) <nancy.dewith@canada.ca>, Zacharias-Homer, Christa ENV:EX <Christa.ZachariasHomer@gov.bc.ca>, Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX <Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca>, Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>, EMBC SWE PREOC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca>, HLTH MOC Duty Officer HLTH:EX <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>, Hopperstead, Anders AFF:EX <Anders.Hopperstead@gov.bc.ca>, Schwartz, Daniel (CFIA/ACIA) <daniel.schwartz@canada.ca>, Best, Caitlyn AFF:EX <Caitlyn.Best@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 10, 2021 2:46:19 PM PST  
Received: March 10, 2021 2:46:21 PM PST  
Greetings,

Based on your participation or engagement in the ongoing Covid Mink 2020 response (currently in the project management phase) to an outbreak of Covid at two mink farms in the Fraser Valley **we are seeking your feedback** on the response and the planning & preparedness for future animal disease events.

Please consider the following aspects when providing your response in addition to any other input you may have:

- Activation and Notification Process
- Organizational Structure (decision making, span of control, support)
- Staffing (capacity, contractors, other agency support staff, training, experience)
- Situational Awareness & Info Sharing (briefings, coordination calls, status boards, situation reports, documentation, mapping)
- Public Info (media, news bulletins)
- Planning (Incident objectives, action plan, advanced planning)
- Quarantines & Orders (process, planning, declarations, resources, supporting agencies, mapping, notifications)
- Resource Management (Requests, approval process, deployment, tracking, payment)

**To access the survey please click on the following link:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BL8233Z>

If you could please provide your responses to the survey **by end of day Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**. If you are unable to complete the survey by this time please let me know? Please feel free to forward this survey on to anyone who may have inadvertently been missed on this email, or advise me accordingly so I can follow up directly.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns?

Thank you,

Graham Knox  
Director, Emergency Management and Climate Change  
Corporate Policy and Priorities Branch  
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Phone: 778-698-4949  
Cell: 250-886-4761  
AFF Emergency Management

## quarantine FOI FW: Covid Mink 2020 - Interim Response Survey

---

From: Radke, Brian AFF:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 29, 2021 10:16:04 AM PDT  
Received: March 29, 2021 10:16:04 AM PDT

Hi Julie the first of about 15 emails from searching for quarantine and to HLTH.

Brian

---

**From:** Knox, Graham G AFF:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** March 18, 2021 3:32 PM

**To:** Pigg, Timothy AFF:EX <Timothy.Pigg@gov.bc.ca>; Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX <Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca>; Turek, Jake AFF:EX <Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca>; Schwalb, Michael ENV:EX <Michael.Schwalb@gov.bc.ca>; Crowley, Margaret L ENV:EX <Margaret.Crowley@gov.bc.ca>; Beruldsen, Josie ENV:EX <Josie.Beruldsen@gov.bc.ca>; Radke, Brian AFF:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AFF:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>; Joseph, Tomy AFF:EX <Tomy.Joseph@gov.bc.ca>; Forbes, Christina D AFF:EX <Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca>; McQueen, Andrea AFF:EX <Andrea.McQueen@gov.bc.ca>; Ray, Jody AFF:EX <Jody.Ray@gov.bc.ca>; Edwards, Lesley AFF:EX <Lesley.1.Edwards@gov.bc.ca>; Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Redford, Tony AFF:EX <Tony.Redford@gov.bc.ca>; Geesing, Dieter AFF:EX <Dieter.Geesing@gov.bc.ca>; Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>; Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>; Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>; 'DeWith, Nancy (CFIA/ACIA)' <nancy.dewith@canada.ca>; Zacharias-Homer, Christa ENV:EX <Christa.ZachariasHomer@gov.bc.ca>; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX <Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca>; 'Newhouse, Emily [FH]' <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; EMBC SWE PREOC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca>; HLTH MOC Duty Officer HLTH:EX <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>; Hopperstead, Anders AFF:EX <Anders.Hopperstead@gov.bc.ca>; 'Schwartz, Daniel (CFIA/ACIA)' <daniel.schwartz@canada.ca>; Best, Caitlyn AFF:EX <Caitlyn.Best@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Covid Mink 2020 - Interim Response Survey

Greetings – Just a friendly reminder for anyone who has not yet had a chance to provide their response to the survey...

Thank you,

Graham

---

**From:** Knox, Graham G AFF:EX

**Sent:** March 10, 2021 2:46 PM

**To:** Pigg, Timothy AFF:EX <Timothy.Pigg@gov.bc.ca>; Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX <Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca>; Turek, Jake AFF:EX <Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca>; Schwalb, Michael ENV:EX <Michael.Schwalb@gov.bc.ca>; Crowley, Margaret L ENV:EX <Margaret.Crowley@gov.bc.ca>; Beruldsen, Josie ENV:EX <Josie.Beruldsen@gov.bc.ca>; Radke, Brian AFF:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AFF:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>; Joseph, Tomy AFF:EX <Tomy.Joseph@gov.bc.ca>; Forbes, Christina D AFF:EX <Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca>; McQueen, Andrea AFF:EX <Andrea.McQueen@gov.bc.ca>; Ray, Jody AFF:EX <Jody.Ray@gov.bc.ca>; Edwards, Lesley AFF:EX <Lesley.1.Edwards@gov.bc.ca>; Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Redford, Tony AFF:EX <Tony.Redford@gov.bc.ca>; Geesing, Dieter AFF:EX <Dieter.Geesing@gov.bc.ca>; Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>; Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>; Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>; 'DeWith, Nancy (CFIA/ACIA)' <nancy.dewith@canada.ca>; Zacharias-Homer, Christa ENV:EX <Christa.ZachariasHomer@gov.bc.ca>; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX <Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca>; 'Newhouse, Emily [FH]' <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; EMBC SWE PREOC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca>; HLTH MOC Duty Officer HLTH:EX <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>; Hopperstead, Anders AFF:EX <Anders.Hopperstead@gov.bc.ca>; Schwartz, Daniel (CFIA/ACIA) <daniel.schwartz@canada.ca>; Best, Caitlyn AFF:EX <Caitlyn.Best@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Covid Mink 2020 - Interim Response Survey

Greetings,

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- Staffing (capacity, contractors, other agency support staff, training, experience)
- Situational Awareness & Info Sharing (briefings, coordination calls, status boards, situation reports, documentation, mapping)
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- Quarantines & Orders (process, planning, declarations, resources, supporting agencies, mapping, notifications)
- Resource Management (Requests, approval process, deployment, tracking, payment)

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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BL8233Z>

If you could please provide your responses to the survey **by end of day Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**. If you are unable to complete the survey by this time please let me know? Please feel free to forward this survey on to anyone who may have inadvertently been missed on this email, or advise me accordingly so I can follow up directly.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns?

Thank you,

Graham Knox  
Director, Emergency Management and Climate Change  
Corporate Policy and Priorities Branch  
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Phone: 778-698-4949  
Cell: 250-886-4761  
[AFF Emergency Management](#)

## **quarantine FOI FW: second mink farm results, key messages**

---

From: Radke, Brian AFF:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 29, 2021 10:18:38 AM PDT  
Received: March 29, 2021 10:18:39 AM PDT

-----Original Message-----

From: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 24, 2020 3:27 PM  
To: 'Clair, Veronica [BCCDC]' <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; 'Zbar, Ariella [FH]' <ariella.zbar@fraserhealth.ca>; 'Fraser, Erin [BCCDC]' <Erin.Fraser@bccdc.ca>  
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX <Mike.Nielsen@worksafebc.com>; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX <Doug.Pasco@worksafebc.com>; 'Newhouse, Emily [FH]' <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; 'Choquette, Blair [FH]' <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>; Radke, Brian AGRI:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; 'Amos, Heather [BCCDC]' <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>  
Subject: RE: second mink farm results, key messages

Hi everyone, my understanding is that the media release was set for 3pm; OIE reporting will occur next week as an update to the current event rather than a new, separate notification.  
Rayna

-----Original Message-----

From: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX  
Sent: December 24, 2020 11:01 AM  
To: 'Clair, Veronica [BCCDC]' <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; Zbar, Ariella [FH] <ariella.zbar@fraserhealth.ca>; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC] <Erin.Fraser@bccdc.ca>  
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX <Mike.Nielsen@worksafebc.com>; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX <Doug.Pasco@worksafebc.com>; Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Choquette, Blair [FH] <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>; Radke, Brian AGRI:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Amos, Heather [BCCDC] <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>  
Subject: RE: second mink farm results, key messages

MAGRI will release the info. I'll make sure you're informed before that happens.

I report pertinent info to CFIA, who is responsible for reporting to OIE; they wait until we release info publicly before reporting to OIE as you are correct, OIE reports are public information.

Rayna

-----Original Message-----

From: Clair, Veronica [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>  
Sent: December 24, 2020 10:55 AM  
To: Zbar, Ariella [FH] <ariella.zbar@fraserhealth.ca>; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC] <Erin.Fraser@bccdc.ca>; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX <Mike.Nielsen@worksafebc.com>; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX <Doug.Pasco@worksafebc.com>; Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Choquette, Blair [FH] <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>; Radke, Brian AGRI:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Amos, Heather [BCCDC] <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>  
Subject: Re: second mink farm results, key messages

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a

known sender.

Hi Rayna,

Would MAGRI be taking the lead on releasing the results publically for this one, since there are no human cases that we know of?

When will the animal lab nationally do the OIE notification?

Last time, they also send a Promed posting. Will they do one this time?

When that is done, it is like making it public.

Also is there someone from MAGRI, available to have a short touch base about the worker's interaction with minks for the bedding change and perhaps other tasks?

I could suggest a short call around noon if that works for others in FH and MARGRI.

Or Rayna, maybe you can let us know if there is even a 15 minutes that works for you Rayna anytime today?

Thanks

Veronic

---

From: Zbar, Ariella [FH]

Sent: December 24, 2020 10:02 AM

To: Fraser, Erin [BCCDC]; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX

Cc: Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX; Newhouse, Emily [FH]; Choquette, Blair [FH]; Brian.radke@gov.bc.ca [EXT]; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX [EXT]; Amos, Heather [BCCDC]

Subject: RE: second mink farm results, key messages

Hi Erin,

The information reads accurately to me from a Fraser Health perspective.

-Ariella

-----Original Message-----

From: Fraser, Erin [BCCDC] <Erin.Fraser@bccdc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2020 9:31 AM

To: Zbar, Ariella [FH] <ariella.zbar@fraserhealth.ca>; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Henry, Bonnie [EXT] <bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca>; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX <Mike.Nielsen@worksafebc.com>; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX <Doug.Pasco@worksafebc.com>; Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Choquette, Blair [FH]

<Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>; Brian.radke@gov.bc.ca [EXT] <Brian.radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX [EXT] <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Amos, Heather [BCCDC] <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>

Subject: RE: second mink farm results, key messages

Hi all,

Please see attached for draft key messages adjusted to reflect confirmation of results at NCFAD. Please confirm accuracy of statements for your respective agencies.

I've cc'd Heather Amos here but don't have other comms contacts at MAGri, Fraser Health or WorkSafe

All the best,

Erin Fraser, DVM MSc  
Public Health Veterinarian  
Communicable Diseases & Immunization Service BC Centre for Disease Control

Clinical Assistant Professor  
School of Population and Public Health  
Faculty of Medicine, UBC

655 West 12th Ave  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4  
Tel. 778-677-7790  
www.bccdc.ca

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

-----Original Message-----

From: Zbar, Ariella [FH]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 9:06 PM  
To: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX  
Cc: Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC]; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX; Newhouse, Emily [FH]; Choquette, Blair [FH]  
Subject: Re: second mink farm results

Hi Bonnie,

We have arranged for the workers to be retested tomorrow (NP swabs tomorrow and arranging for repeat serology in 2wks), plus<sup>s.22</sup> None have declared any symptoms. As Rayna mentioned, we will also have EHOs picking up the remaining 14 mink carcasses for testing.

-Ariella

On Dec 23, 2020, at 8:59 PM, Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and do not open attachments or click on links.

-----  
-----

Thanks Bonnie. I haven't heard any more regarding human cases. The farm was served with a quarantine order on Monday, and that remains in place. My understanding is that Fraser health staff will be on farm tomorrow to do some repeat testing of farm workers and they have offered to deliver mink carcasses to the animal health centre so they can be sampled next week.

Rayna

Sent from my iPhone



On Dec 23, 2020, at 8:54 PM, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Rayna,

Any update on human cases? And what are the actions that you are taking on the farm? Happy to set up a call so we can all be clear on next steps and further investigation before this is released publicly.

Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health  
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca  
s.17; s.19

On Dec 23, 2020, at 8:03 PM, Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello everyone.

We received results back from the national lab and the mink from the second premises have been confirmed positive.

I have spoken with the producer, but am not sure when the results will be released publicly. I will be sure to let you know.

Rayna

Rayna E. Gunvaldsen BSA DVM MSc  
Chief Veterinarian  
Animal Welfare and Dairy Program Veterinarian BC Ministry of  
Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries

## **quarantine FOI    FW: second mink farm results, key messages**

---

From: Radke, Brian AFF:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 29, 2021 10:18:54 AM PDT  
Received: March 29, 2021 10:18:54 AM PDT  
Attachments: key messages mink Farm b positive results Dec242020 -RG edits.docx

-----Original Message-----

From: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 24, 2020 12:11 PM  
To: 'Fraser, Erin [BCCDC]' <Erin.Fraser@bccdc.ca>; Zbar, Ariella [FH] <ariella.zbar@fraserhealth.ca>  
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX <Mike.Nielsen@worksafebc.com>; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX <Doug.Pasco@worksafebc.com>; Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Choquette, Blair [FH] <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>; Radke, Brian AGRI:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Amos, Heather [BCCDC] <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>; Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: second mink farm results, key messages

Edits in the attached. I have cc'd our communications representative, Rob Boelens for comment as well.  
Rayna

-----Original Message-----

From: Fraser, Erin [BCCDC] <Erin.Fraser@bccdc.ca>  
Sent: December 24, 2020 9:31 AM  
To: Zbar, Ariella [FH] <ariella.zbar@fraserhealth.ca>; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX <Mike.Nielsen@worksafebc.com>; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX <Doug.Pasco@worksafebc.com>; Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Choquette, Blair [FH] <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>; Radke, Brian AGRI:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Amos, Heather [BCCDC] <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>  
Subject: RE: second mink farm results, key messages

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi all,

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All the best,

Erin Fraser, DVM MSc  
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Cc: Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC]; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX; Newhouse, Emily [FH]; Choquette, Blair [FH]

Subject: Re: second mink farm results

Hi Bonnie,

We have arranged for the workers to be retested tomorrow (NP swabs tomorrow and arranging for repeat serology in 2wks), plus s.22 None have declared  
any symptoms. As Rayna mentioned, we will also have EHOs picking up the remaining 14 mink carcasses for testing.

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Sent from my iPhone

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Provincial Health Officer  
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Rayna E. Gunvaldsen BSA DVM MSc  
Chief Veterinarian  
Animal Welfare and Dairy Program Veterinarian BC Ministry of  
Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries

Page 29 of 43 to/à Page 30 of 43

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

## **quarantine FOI    FW: second mink farm results, key messages**

---

From: Radke, Brian AFF:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 29, 2021 10:19:12 AM PDT  
Received: March 29, 2021 10:19:13 AM PDT

-----Original Message-----

From: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 24, 2020 11:01 AM  
To: 'Clair, Veronica [BCCDC]' <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; Zbar, Ariella [FH] <ariella.zbar@fraserhealth.ca>; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC] <Erin.Fraser@bccdc.ca>  
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX <Mike.Nielsen@worksafebc.com>; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX <Doug.Pasco@worksafebc.com>; Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Choquette, Blair [FH] <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>; Radke, Brian AGRI:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Amos, Heather [BCCDC] <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>  
Subject: RE: second mink farm results, key messages

MAGRI will release the info. I'll make sure you're informed before that happens.

I report pertinent info to CFIA, who is responsible for reporting to OIE; they wait until we release info publicly before reporting to OIE as you are correct, OIE reports are public information.

Rayna

-----Original Message-----

From: Clair, Veronica [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>  
Sent: December 24, 2020 10:55 AM  
To: Zbar, Ariella [FH] <ariella.zbar@fraserhealth.ca>; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC] <Erin.Fraser@bccdc.ca>; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX <Mike.Nielsen@worksafebc.com>; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX <Doug.Pasco@worksafebc.com>; Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Choquette, Blair [FH] <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>; Radke, Brian AGRI:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Amos, Heather [BCCDC] <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>  
Subject: Re: second mink farm results, key messages

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Rayna,

Would MAGRI be taking the lead on releasing the results publically for this one, since there are no human cases that we know of?

When will the animal lab nationally do the OIE notification?

Last time, they also send a Promed posting. Will they do one this time?

When that is done, it is like making it public.

Also is there someone from MAGRI, available to have a short touch base about the worker's interaction with minks for the bedding change and perhaps other tasks?

I could suggest a short call around noon if that works for others in FH and MARGRI.

Or Rayna, maybe you can let us know if there is even a 15 minutes that works for you Rayna anytime today?

Thanks

Veronic

---

From: Zbar, Ariella [FH]

Sent: December 24, 2020 10:02 AM

To: Fraser, Erin [BCCDC]; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX

Cc: Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX; Newhouse, Emily [FH]; Choquette, Blair [FH]; Brian.radke@gov.bc.ca [EXT]; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX [EXT]; Amos, Heather [BCCDC]

Subject: RE: second mink farm results, key messages

Hi Erin,

The information reads accurately to me from a Fraser Health perspective.

-Ariella

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Dr Bonnie Henry

Provincial Health Officer

Ministry of Health

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s.17; s.19

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Rayna E. Gunvaldsen BSA DVM MSc  
Chief Veterinarian  
Animal Welfare and Dairy Program Veterinarian BC Ministry of  
Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries

## **KEY MESSAGES. SARS-CoV-2 positive mink on second mink farm in BC**

DRAFT: December 24, 2020

- Between December 19 to 21, increased mortalities of mink were reported to the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (BC MAFF) at a second mink farm in the Fraser Health Authority region in British Columbia (BC), Canada.
- No human illnesses of workers associated with this premises have been reported. Fraser Health Authority conducted testing of mink workers at this premises on December 16<sup>th</sup> as part of a public health order for mandatory testing of mink workers and mink. There were no positive human cases of COVID-19 detected at this time. Fraser Health is conducting a public health investigation, including additional testing, of farm workers and their contacts at the affected premises.
- On December 21 samples from dead mink were tested by Real Time RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2 at the BC Animal Health Centre (BC MAFF) and had a non-negative result.
- On Dec 21 samples from these dead mink were sent to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases (NCFAD) laboratory in Winnipeg for confirmatory testing by Real Time RT-PCR (E and RdRp) for SARS-CoV-2. On Dec 24, the NCFAD confirmed SARS-CoV-2 in 21 mink specimens. The CFIA will report these confirmed cases in mink to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in accordance with international protocol.
- Genetic sequencing of viruses detected in these mink will be conducted at the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory and the National Microbiology Laboratory to monitor changes in the virus and compare with SARS-CoV-2 virus detected in people.
- BC MAFF is responsible for animal health management in farmed mink and has applied a quarantine order onto the infected premises to prevent movement of animals and animal products onto and off the property and to restrict movement of equipment associated with mink production on the premises.
- BC MAFF is working together with Fraser Health Authority and WorkSafe BC to apply enhanced public and animal health measures and monitoring on the affected premises.
- On December 14, the Fraser Health Authority, under the Public Health Act, put a class order on all mink farms in its region to assess if there was evidence of COVID-19 infections in association with other mink farms. This assessment, carried out in collaboration with the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (BC MAFF), the BC Center for Disease Control and WorkSafe BC, is ongoing.

## **Supporting messages**

- As a precautionary measure, people who have COVID-19 symptoms or are self-isolating because of contact with a COVID-19 case should avoid close contact with animals, including mink.
- It is important to remember that, while some animal species can become infected with COVID-19, this pandemic is being driven by human-to-human transmission.
- New information on COVID-19 emerges every day. Researchers and scientists in Canada and around the world are working hard to better understand the virus, and its impacts on people, communities, and animals.

DRAFT

**quarantine FOI FW: draft letter from public health to industry - feedback asap  
please, uncertain of timeline of release of FH bulletin, potentially at 2**

---

From: Radke, Brian AFF:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 29, 2021 10:29:24 AM PDT  
Received: March 29, 2021 10:29:24 AM PDT  
Attachments: mink producer letter public health Dec 6 2020 (2)bh.docx

Hi Julie one additional email. Quarantine, manure and feed are included in the attachment.  
Brian

---

**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** December 6, 2020 12:57 PM  
**To:** 'Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]' <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; Wong, Jason [BCCDC] <Jason.Wong@bccdc.ca>; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC] <Danuta.Skowronski@bccdc.ca>; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>; Sterloff, Trish HLTH:EX <Trish.Sterloff@gov.bc.ca>; Choquette, Blair [FH] <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>; Radke, Brian AGRI:EX <Brian.Radke@gov.bc.ca>; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC] <Erin.Fraser@bccdc.ca>; Millard, Timothy [FH] <Timothy.Millard@fraserhealth.ca>; Tyler, Ingrid Dr. HLTH:IN <ingrid.tyler@fraserhealth.ca>; Kerwin, Oona [FH] <Oona.Kerwin@fraserhealth.ca>; Parker, Robert Dr. <robert.parker@fraserhealth.ca>; Deo, Hermandeep [FH] <Hermandeep.Deo@fraserhealth.ca>; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX <Doug.Pasco@worksafebc.com>; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX <Michelle.Coombe@gov.bc.ca>; Sekirov, Inna [BCCDC] <inna.sekirov@bccdc.ca>; Chan, Elaine [BCCDC] <elaine.chan@bccdc.ca>; Gill, Gurpreet [FH] <Gurpreet.Gill@fraserhealth.ca>; McDonald, Rosebelle WCB:EX <Rose.McDonald@worksafebc.com>; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX <Mike.Nielsen@worksafebc.com>; Wilkinson, Victoria [FH] <Victoria.Wilkinson2@fraserhealth.ca>; Loadman, Susan [FH] <Susan.Loadman@fraserhealth.ca>; Corneil, Trevor [BCCDC] <trevor.corneil@bccdc.ca>; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>; Masse, Jessica [FH] <Jessica.Masse@fraserhealth.ca>; XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN <mel.krajden@bccdc.ca>; Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC] <Siu-Kae.Yeong@bccdc.ca>; Chan, Elaine [BCCDC] <elaine.chan@bccdc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: draft letter from public health to industry - feedback asap please, uncertain of timeline of release of FH bulletin, potentially at 2

Some suggested edits in the attached.

Thanks,  
Bonnie

*Dr Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
Ministry of Health  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1515 Blanshard St  
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9P4  
[Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca)*

Phone: s.17; s.19

*I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em*

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

---

**From:** Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]  
**Sent:** December 6, 2020 12:29 PM

**To:** Wong, Jason [BCCDC] ; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC] ; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX ; Sterloff, Trish HLTH:EX ; Choquette, Blair [FH] ; Radke, Brian AGRI:EX ; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC] ; Millard, Timothy [FH] ; Tyler, Ingrid Dr. HLTH:IN ; Kerwin, Oona [FH] ; Parker, Robert Dr. ; Deo, Hermandeep [FH] ; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX ; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX ; Sekirov, Inna [BCCDC] ; Chan, Elaine [BCCDC] ; Gill, Gurpreet [FH] ; McDonald, Rosebelle WCB:EX ; Nielsen, Mike WCB:EX ; Wilkinson, Victoria [FH] ; Loadman, Susan [FH] ; Corneil, Trevor [BCCDC] ; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] ; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX ; Masse, Jessica [FH] ; XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN ; Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC] ; Chan, Elaine [BCCDC]  
**Subject:** draft letter from public health to industry - feedback asap please, uncertain of timeline of release of FH bulletin, potentially at 2

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi,

as discussed yesterday, attached is a draft letter that could be sent to mink producers to recommend enhancing their COVID-19 safety plans taking into account the recent recommendations, as well as WorkSafe requirement.

I would appreciate feedback ASAP, in the next hour if at all possible.

I am not sure if the intend to release the FH outbreak bulletin at 2 still stands or not. But if it still stands, it does not leave us much time to finalize that letter for the industry to receive it at the same time as the bulletin goes public.

As it was discussed that FH would be leading public health communication with the farms, should this letter come from FH while being distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture?

The only mention about a potential surveillance program while logistics are being sorted out is: BC CDC in collaboration with Fraser Health intends to facilitate testing for mink farm workers starting as soon as possible. Details of this program are being finalized and information will be shared when available.

Even if we do not set up a full surveillance program, we can facilitate testing with the pre-populated requisitions we have discussed in the past, enabling testing to the extent we judge adequate through regular testing sites.

Warm regards,

Veronic

---

**From:** Clair, Veronica [BCCDC]

**Sent:** December 5, 2020 7:55 PM

**To:** Wong, Jason [BCCDC]; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC]; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX; sterloff, trish [BCCDC]; Choquette, Blair [FH]; [Brian.radke@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.radke@gov.bc.ca) [EXT]; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC]; Millard, Timothy [FH]; Tyler, Ingrid [FH]; Kerwin, Oona [FH]; Parker, Robert Dr.; Deo, Hermandeep [FH]; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX [EXT]; Sekirov, Inna [BCCDC]; Chan, Elaine [BCCDC]; Gill, Gurpreet [FH]; McDonald, Rosebelle WCB:EX; [mike.nielsen@worksafebc.com](mailto:mike.nielsen@worksafebc.com); Wilkinson, Victoria [FH]; Loadman, Susan [FH]; Corneil, Trevor [BCCDC]; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Masse, Jessica [FH]; Krajden, Mel [BCCDC]; Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC]; Chan, Elaine [BCCDC]

**Subject:** Re: Follow-up on Mink Farm

Good evening,

please find attached draft minutes, slight modification in format compared to prior. Thanks Siu-Kae for drafting.

Best,

Veronic

---

**From:** Wong, Jason [BCCDC]

**Sent:** December 5, 2020 11:37 AM

**To:** Wong, Jason [BCCDC]; Clair, Veronica [BCCDC]; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC]; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AGRI:EX; sterloff, trish [BCCDC]; Choquette, Blair [FH]; [Brian.radke@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.radke@gov.bc.ca) [EXT]; Fraser, Erin [BCCDC]; Millard, Timothy [FH]; Tyler, Ingrid [FH]; Kerwin, Oona [FH]; Parker, Robert Dr.; Deo, Hermandeep [FH]; Pasco, Doug WCB:EX; Coombe, Michelle AGRI:EX [EXT]; Sekirov, Inna [BCCDC]; Chan, Elaine [BCCDC]; Gill, Gurpreet [FH]; McDonald, Rosebelle WCB:EX; [mike.nielsen@worksafebc.com](mailto:mike.nielsen@worksafebc.com); Wilkinson, Victoria [FH]; Loadman, Susan [FH]; Corneil, Trevor [BCCDC]; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Masse, Jessica [FH]; Krajden, Mel [BCCDC]

**Subject:** Follow-up on Mink Farm

**When:** December 5, 2020 4:30 PM-5:30 PM.

**Where:** Zoom

Hello,

You are invited to a Zoom Virtual Health Visit.

Time: Dec 5, 2020 04:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Follow-up on Mink Farm

Join the Virtual Health Visit

s.15

Meeting ID:s.15

Password:s.15

Can't join by computer or mobile device? Join by telephone:

1833 955 1088 (Toll-free)

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- Visit our online instructions on how to get started with Virtual Health Visits using Zoom:

<http://www.phsa.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/office-of-virtual-health/covid-19-virtual-health-toolkit/zoom-for-healthcare/patient-resources>

- If you encounter any problems connecting to your Virtual Health Visit, you can call the helpdesk at 1-844-442-4433 (Toll-free) for support. Interpreting services can be requested during your call.

NOTE: This invitation should not be shared with others. It contains a unique link created for you.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16