

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

August 24th - August 30th, 2020

SUMMARY: RELEVANT EVENTS (includes all events rated ≥ 3.0) COVID-19 Preprint article - Study demonstrates that rabbits are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. While the infection is Read More asymptomatic, infectious virus with peak titers corresponding to about 1000 TCID50 could be detected up to day 7 PI in the nose. 3.0 Gulf Coast Tick (Amblyomma maculatum) Gulf Coast ticks have been discovered in Connecticut for the first time, in an undisclosed location in Fairfield County. The Read More ticks could pose health concerns in both humans and dogs. African Swine Fever In Poland, ASF has already infected more farms in 2020 than it did in the whole of 2019. Currently, the Read More count is at 71 infected farms, the majority of them being backyard farms. 3.0 **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza** In Australia, a 3rd outbreak of HPAI H7N7 in chickens has been reported, along with an outbreak of LPAI H7N6 at an emu farm in Kerang

NEW EVENTS: (events rated > 2)



Gulf Coast Tick in Connecticut, USA

Pathogen: N/A; Transmission: N/A; Species affected in event: Tick

① Gulf Coast ticks have been discovered in Connecticut for the first time, in an undisclosed location in Fairfield County. The ticks could pose health concerns for both humans and dogs. In humans, Gulf Coast ticks can transmit *Rickettsia parkeri* rickettsiosis, a form of spotted fever. The ticks can also transmit an agent that causes canine hepatozoonosis in dogs.

Avrg. Rating	3.0
No. of Signals	1
No. of Ratings	3

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N2 in Taiwan

Pathogen: Virus; Transmission: Direct contact, fomite, aerosol; Species affected in event: Chicken

① HPAI H5N2 has been confirmed on a chicken farm in Yunlin County. All animals on the infected farm have been culled. Between July 2015 to March 2020, Taiwan reported 985 outbreaks of HPAI H5N2 and declared the event as resolved on 17 Mar 2020.

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Avrg. Rating	2.3 - 2.7
No. of Signals	2
No. of Ratings	3

West Nile virus in Toronto, Ontario

Pathogen: Virus; Transmission: Vector-borne; Species affected in event: Human

① Toronto Public Health has received a positive laboratory report identifying Toronto's first reported case of West Nile virus for 2020 in an adult resident.

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Avrg. Rating	2.5
No. of Signals	1
No. of Ratings	2



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CONTINUED EVENTS: (events rated ≥ 2.4)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H7N7 in Australia No. of Signals: 03 No. of weeks in report: 03 Avrg. Rating: 2.7 – 3.0

- A 3rd outbreak of HPAI H7N7 has been confirmed in an egg farm in Golden Plains Shire, Victoria
- Victoria has also recently reported LPAI H5N2 in turkeys in East Gippsland and LPAI H7N6 in an emu farm in Kerang

African Swine Fever in Europe

No. of Signals: 07

No. of weeks in report: 67

Avrg. Rating: 2.0 - 3.0

- In Poland, ASF has already infected more farms in 2020 than it did in the whole of 2019, with a current total of 71 infected farms
- Ukraine has reported outbreaks of ASF in domestic swine
- Hungary, Latvia, and Romania have reported cases of ASF in wild boar

COVID-19 Worldwide (as of August 30, 2020)

No. of Signals: 47

No. of weeks in report: 31

Avrg. Rating: 1.2 – 3.0

- Worldwide, there were 25,416,935 cases of COVID-19 with 851,107 deaths reported
- In Canada, the National Microbiology Laboratory reported 127,940 cases of COVID-19 and 9,117 deaths: British Columbia (5496 confirmed, 204 deaths), Alberta (13,476 confirmed, 237 deaths), Saskatchewan (1615 confirmed, 24 deaths), Manitoba (1186 confirmed, 14 deaths), Ontario (42,195 confirmed, 2810 deaths), Quebec (62,352 confirmed, 5758 deaths), Newfoundland and Labrador (269 confirmed, 3 death), New Brunswick (191 confirmed, 2 death), Nova Scotia (1083 confirmed, 65 deaths), Prince Edward Island (44), Yukon (15), Northwest Territories (5), Nunavut (0), repatriated Canadians (13)
- Documented cases of SARS-CoV-2 re-infection have now been reported from Hong Kong, the Netherlands, and Belgium

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5 in Russia

No. of Signals: 03

No. of weeks in report: 02

Avrg. Rating: 2.3 – 2.7

- Three outbreaks of HPAI H5 have been reported in village and backyard poultry in Omsk Oblast in southwest Siberia Russia
- Earlier this month, Russia reported two outbreaks involving H5N8 in backyard and village poultry in Chelyabinsk Oblast, in the Ural Mountains

SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS:

Preprint: Susceptibility of rabbits to SARS-CoV-2

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Preprint: Susceptibility of raccoon dogs for experimental SARS-CoV-2 infection

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Preprint: Experimental infection of cattle with SARS-CoV-2

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Disclaimer

This intelligence report is intended to provide information to risk managers about emerging and zoonotic disease events that could pose a threat to Canada. It is based on information signals acquired and selected from twenty-one distinct disease surveillance sources via the Knowledge Integration using Web-based Intelligence (KIWI) tool hosted on the Canadian Network for Public Health Intelligence (CNPHI) informatics platform. The report is based on the activities of the CEZD Community of Practice and subject to change based on evolving user needs.