



Reporting on SARS-CoV-2 as per CID 2020/2183

PAFF – Section Animal Health and Welfare

16 March 2021

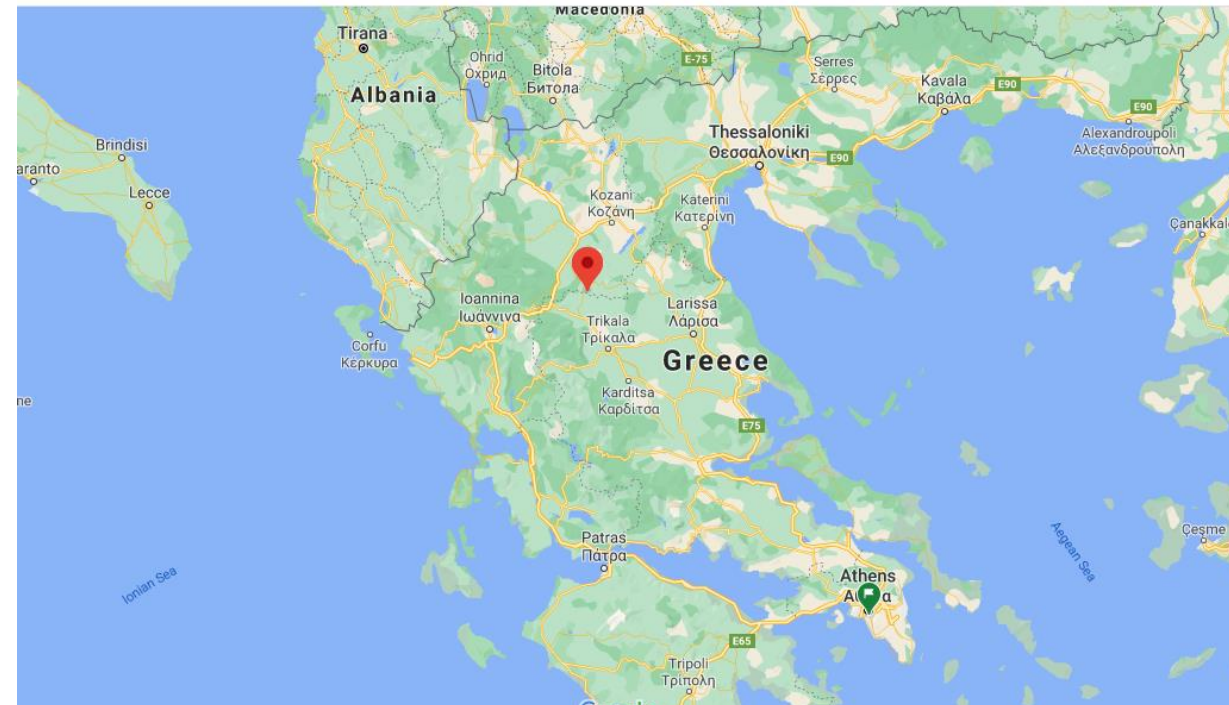
Unit G2 – Animal Health

Reporting on:

- SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family *Mustelidae* and in raccoon dogs
- CID 2020/2183 adopted on 21 December 2020.
- Reports received by Greece with one outbreak in February 2021.

Greece

- 1 SARS-CoV-2 outbreak (out of 23 total outbreaks) confirmed by PCR
- In commercial farm with 27658 kept American minks
- Confirmed on 13/2/2021
- It is estimated that the virus was introduced in late January/early February.
- Location: Regional Unit of Grevena



Greece

- No clinical signs: Mink showed no clinical symptoms and feed intake was not reduced.
- No increased mortality: ~240 mink have died since the estimated date of virus introduction. However, based on the records kept in the farm, this number doesn't exceed the regular mortality that is expected within the given time period (slimming preceding mating season). It should also be taken into account that extreme weather conditions (up to -20 °C) have been affecting the region and the animals in the past week.
- Veterinary authorities were notified by the health authorities for two asymptomatic human cases (workers) directly related to the farm.
- Transmission from infected workers is suspected.

Greece

- Movement control inside the country, no treatment of affected animals, zoning (whole country), traceability, quarantine, surveillance, biosecurity measures including mandatory use of personal protective equipment.
- None of the other mutations described on the Rapid Risk Assessment of the 12th November 2020 from EU agencies (ECDC, EFSA, EMA) has been found up to now neither in humans (farm workers/owners and community) nor animals. Moreover, none of the UK, South African and Brazilian variants have been detected in minks so far

Greece

- Lineage: B.1.1.305 in the prefecture of Kastoria and B.1.1.218 in the prefectures of Kozani and Grevena are the two main lineages that are most frequent among mink samples. The most frequent mutations in the S protein are the D614G followed by the P812L both for the general human population and minks.
- Most of the farm workers resulted positive for the abovementioned variants and sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 genomes from positive individuals from the general local population also identified the same lineages, among others. It should be noted that in each distinct farm the same lineage was identified in mink and farm workers.
- Preliminary data indicate that minks were infected, in most of the cases, by humans.

Greece

- Vaccination of high-risk population directly related to farms (farm workers, owners, veterinarians) has already commenced and is in progress.

Thank you



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