

COVID-19, caused by infection with SARS-CoV-2, is a human disease which most likely emerged from an animal source and through widespread human-to-human transmission became a pandemic. As of **31 July 2021**, around **200 million** confirmed human cases have been reported worldwide, with more than **4 million** human deaths<sup>1</sup>. The nature of this new zoonotic virus, together with its widespread distribution and the susceptibility of some animal species to infection, manifests in animal infections arising from close contact between people and animals. Conversely, there is also evidence that, for some animal species, close contact with infected animals can represent a potential source of infection in humans<sup>2</sup>.

This report is a monthly update of the global situation of the report of SARS-CoV-2 in animals, with a special focus on the new reports submitted to the OIE in the last month.

### Global situation since the beginning of the pandemic

The worldwide geographical distribution of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in animals reported to the OIE is shown in Figure 1

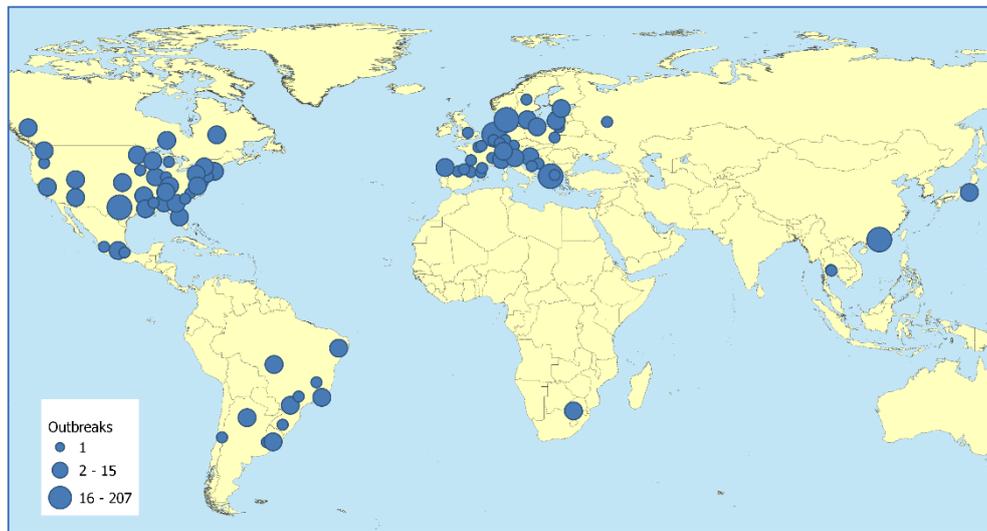


Figure 1. Worldwide distribution of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in ten animal species reported to the OIE (as of 31 July 2021). Note that dot size on the map is proportional to the number of outbreaks reported.

Table 1 shows the global distribution of animal infections with SARS-CoV-2. Thirty countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe have reported the occurrence of the disease, in ten different animal species (cats, dogs, mink, otter, pet ferrets, lions, tigers, pumas, snow leopards and gorillas).

Table 1. Number of outbreaks (n=565) reported worldwide, by species and region (as of 31 July 2021).

Region \ Species	Cats	Dogs	Mink	Otter	Pet ferrets	Lions	Tigers	Pumas	Snow leopards	Gorillas
<i>Africa</i>						1		1		
<i>Americas</i>	67	66	20	1		2	7	2	1	1
<i>Asia</i>	11	15								
<i>Europe</i>	24	6	335		1	2*	1*			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

\*One lion and one tiger in Sweden are from the same location and are therefore only represented as 1 outbreak in this table.

<sup>1</sup> <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.23.2001005#html\\_fulltext](https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.23.2001005#html_fulltext)

### Update during last month (01/07/2021 - 31/07/2021)

During the last month **6 outbreaks** have been reported or updated by **4 countries (Canada, Spain, Switzerland and South Africa)** in **3 animal species** (dog, lion, mink). The recent distribution of outbreaks is reported in Figure 2.

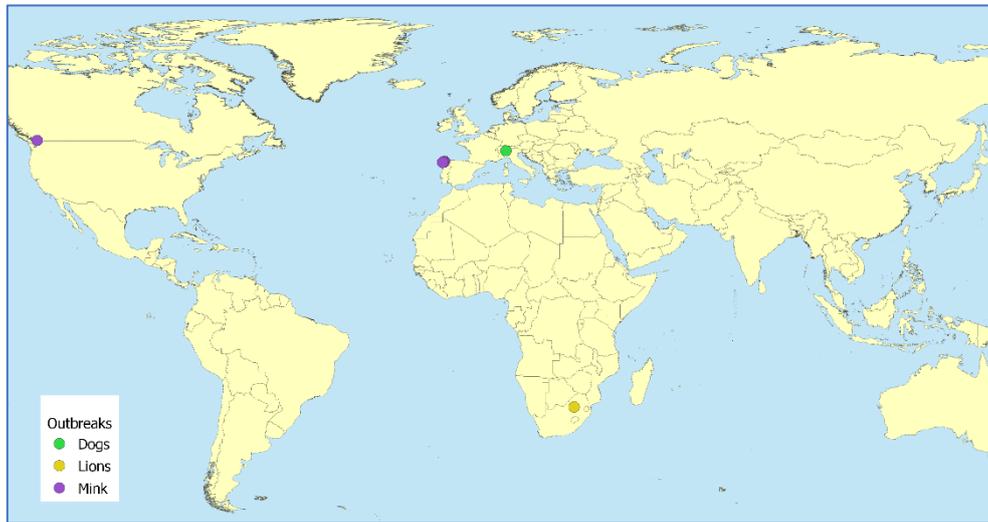


Figure 2. Worldwide recent distribution of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks reported to the OIE (01/07/2021 - 31/07/2021).

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL COMMENTS

### Summary of the global situation and recommendations

While the main driver of community and international spread in the current pandemic is human to human transmission, animal cases of infection with SARS-CoV-2, though still only occasional occurrences, continue to rise. Currently, **565 outbreaks** in animals have been reported globally, affecting **10 species** in **30 countries**. Some countries have experienced a high prevalence of outbreaks in mink farms, and variant strains have now been identified in mustelids. As infection with SARS-CoV-2 is an emerging disease, the OIE strongly encourages Members to report through WAHIS the occurrence of any cases in animals that comply with the case definition provided in the OIE guidelines<sup>3</sup>.

### Relevant changes in disease situation during the period:

- SARS-CoV-2 was reported through **1** Immediate notification by **South Africa**
- SARS-CoV-2 was reported through **3** Immediate notifications by **Spain**

### Relevant epidemiological comments from countries:

- **South Africa:** “three positive lions in Johannesburg”.
- **Spain** “three mink farms affected in Galicia”.

### Other relevant information during the period (OIE documents, relevant news, upcoming webinar or conferences)

- OIE Ad hoc Group on COVID-19 at the Animal-Human Interface - [https://old.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/14th\\_call\\_AHG\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://old.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/14th_call_AHG_COVID-19.pdf)
- Denver Zoo joins Oakland Zoo in vaccinating animals against COVID - [Denver Zoo joins Oakland Zoo in vaccinating animals against COVID - CBS News](#)
- Up to 40% of wild deer population in US exposed to coronavirus, study finds - [Up to 40% of wild deer population in US exposed to coronavirus, study finds | The Independent](#)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/A\\_Sampling\\_Testing\\_and\\_Reporting\\_of\\_SARS-CoV-2\\_in\\_animals\\_3\\_July\\_2020.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/A_Sampling_Testing_and_Reporting_of_SARS-CoV-2_in_animals_3_July_2020.pdf)