

Table 2- Human health risk posed by SARS-CoV-2 mink related variant

(from ECDC, 2020b, modified)

	Scenario (Denmark and The Netherland)	Risk assessment
<i>Transmissibility</i>	<p>SARS-CoV-2 mink variants</p> <p>are able to circulate rapidly in mink farms and the human communities close to the farms, however, they do not appear to be more transmissible than other circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants.</p>	<p>the probability of</p> <p>infection with mink-related variant strains is assessed as low for the general population, moderate for populations in</p> <p>areas with a high concentration of mink farms and very high for individuals with occupational exposure.</p>
<i>Severity</i>	<p>Patients infected with mink-related variants (including the Cluster 5 variant in Denmark), do not showed more severe clinical symptoms than those infected with non-mink-related variants.</p>	<p>COVID-19 severity appears to be</p> <p>similar to those infected with non-mink-related variants. The impact is low for the general population and very high for individuals with risk factors for severe COVID-19 disease, such as the elderly.</p>
<i>Immunity, reinfection, vaccination and treatment</i>	<p>only the Cluster 5 variant has raised specific concern due to its effect on antigenicity</p>	<p>investigations are needed to assess the risk of</p> <p>reinfection, reduced vaccine efficacy or reduced benefit of treatment with plasma from convalescent patients or</p> <p>with monoclonal antibodies.</p>
<i>Cross-border spread</i>	<p>No cross-border spread of SARS-CoV-2 variants related to mink in EU/EEA countries and the UK through humans</p> <p>has been observed so far. No indication that the potential for cross-border spread is different to that for other SARS-CoV-2 variants.</p> <p>One mutation (Y453F), defining mink-related variants, has been detected outside of Europe.</p> <p>In the past few months, community</p> <p>transmission has occurred in Denmark and, to some extent, in the Netherlands.</p>	<p>There is risk of genetic adaptation in mink populations giving rise to a selective advantage in regions with mink farming activity.</p> <p>There is risk of potential for circulation of strains Y453F</p> <p>There is risk of cross-border spread.</p> <p>The cross-border spread of SARS-CoV-2 variants related to mink in EU/EEA countries and the UK through animals</p> <p>and animal products appears very low.</p>