

## **Human coronavirus and production animals**

### **COVID-19 is a respiratory disease of humans**

A new coronavirus epidemic started in China in the beginning of this year. By now the disease has spread also to other continents and World Health Organization has declared it as a pandemic. The Finnish Government has declared a state of emergency on 16.3.2020.

The virus spreads by droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Bovine Coronavirus is a different disease and does not cause a threat to humans. COVID-19 does not infect production animals.

### **Care for production animals must be ensured**

The greatest risk to animal production is now the labor shortage caused by quarantine due to the illness or infection of the producer or of the employees at the farm. If all the personnel of the farm are quarantined, but healthy, they still can keep working. A person with acute respiratory symptoms must not work.

In all situations, adequate care and welfare of production animals must be maintained.

### **[Washing your hands carefully and frequently is important.](#)**

For further information please go to:

**[Finnish institute for health and welfare](#)**

**[Finnish Institute of Occupational Health](#)**

### **Human coronavirus and food products**

**[European Food Safety Authority](#)** has confirmed that food is not a transmission route for COVID-19. Milk can be collected from farms normally even if some of the farm personnel are infected or quarantined. Transmission of coronavirus via milk or milk truck is very unlikely. Pasteurization of milk destroys viruses efficiently. The rooms where the milk tank is placed must be kept tidy and the contact between the farm personnel and the milk truck driver needs to be minimized. Livestock transportation is neither a known transmission route.

### **Sources:**

**[Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare](#)**

**[Finnish institute of Occupational Health](#)**

**[Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland](#)**

**[Finnish Food Authority](#)**

**[OIE](#)**

**[EFSA](#)**



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