



**World Health  
Organization**

# **WHO Consultation Use of trained dogs for screening COVID-19 cases**

8 March 2021

12:00 – 14:40 Central European Time

## **DRAFT Agenda**

Version 1 March 2021



**R&D Blueprint**

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## Introduction

Reports on the capacity of trained dogs to detect specific odours associated with COVID-19 infection are prompting a rapid increase in the number of countries seeking to deploy dogs for COVID-19 screening during mass gatherings and other settings. While dogs have shown their capacity to detect other infectious and non-infectious pathologies, the application to COVID-19 may complement currently available diagnostic tools and provide multiple applications to public health.

The use of dogs for initial screening could have several advantages: The approach is non-invasive, results are obtainable in real time, no close contact is required with infectious samples, costs are low, and large numbers of individuals can be screened quickly. Despite these clear advantages, limits and challenges in operationalising dogs for this important task do exist and will be explored during the consultation.

## Objectives of the ad-hoc consultation

- To review what is known about the screening capacity of trained dogs and how the use of dogs may complement existing tools and programs to detect COVID-19 cases.
- To learn more about practical methods for operationalizing dog screening programs and outline known challenges for the use of this approach.
- To share experiences and lessons garnered from countries already implementing dog screening programs.
- To identify next steps which could support countries to efficiently operationalize the use of dogs screening programs when needed.

## Expected outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of the potential use and complementarity of trained screening dogs for existing COVID-19 cases detection programs.
- Clarity on the research agenda needed to consolidate the results and implementation of screening dogs programs.
- Identification of issues and specific requirements for the implementation of dog screening in various contexts.

**DRAFT AGENDA****Chairperson – William B. Karesh,**

Executive Vice President for Health and Policy at EcoHealth Alliance, Chair of the OIE ad hoc group on COVID-19 and the human-animal-ecosystem interface

Time	Topic	Speakers
12:00 – 12:05	Welcoming remarks	Michael J. Ryan
12:05 – 12:10	Objective of the meeting	William B. Karesh
<b>SESSION 1: WHAT ARE THE EVIDENCE AND WHAT IS KNOWN</b>		
12:10 – 12:20	Review of knowledge and evidences	Stéphane de la Rocque,
12:20 – 12:30	How dogs can complement the current protocols for the identification of COVID-19 cases?	Denis Malvy- Thierry Pistone
12:30 – 12:40	What have we learn when using dogs for other pathologies?	James Logan
12:40 – 12:50	Sweat, urine, saliva....All samples smell COVID-19	Holger Andreas Volk
12:50 – 13:00	What is known about Volatile organic components (VOC)?	Fernando Mardones
<b>SESSION 2: OPERATIONALISATION IN VARIOUS CONTEXTS – Chair: Dominique</b>		
13:00 – 13:10	Recruitment and training of dogs	Riad Sarkis
13:10 – 13:20	What is the level of acceptability of the method?	Hugues Guyot - Chris Callewaert
13:20 – 13:30	Are they any animal welfare concerns?	Claire Guest
13:30 – 13:40	What are the main challenges, blocking factors and needs for wider implementation?	Dominique Grandjean
13:40 – 13:45	Feedback from a non-initiated expert	David Heymann
<b>SESSION 3: RETURN OF EXPERIENCE FROM COUNTRIES</b>		
13:45 – 13:50	Australia	Anne-Lise Chaber
13:50 – 13:55	France	Dominique Grandjean
13:55 – 14:00	Finland	Anna Hielm Bjorkman
14:00 – 14:05	Lebanon	Riad Sarkis
14:05 – 14:10	Chile	Fernando Mardones
14:10 – 14:15	United Arab Emirates	Hamad Khatir Alhammadi
14:15 – 14:20	United Kingdom	James Logan
14:20 – 14:25	United States of America	Cindy Otto
14:25 – 14:30	Belgium	Hugues Guyot - Chris Callewaert
14:30 – 14:35	Main take home messages	William Karesh
14:35 – 14:40	Closing Remarks	Stella Chungong