

## COVID-19

## **GUIDELINES – GEESE AND COVID-19**

- Many local hunting and fishing associations have shared their worries concerning the risk of COVID-19 transmission by geese migrating from the South.
- The Nunavik Research Centre and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services have examined the available data on that risk, with the help of an expert in animal health.
- There is little to no risk of COVID-19 being brought to the North by geese and thus little to no risk of transmission to Nunavimmiut by that vector.
- Epidemiological studies speculate that the COVID-19 pandemic began with transmission from an unknown animal, but according to current data, transmission is now considered principally human to human.
- Avian coronaviruses are not known to infect humans and human coronaviruses are not known to infect birds. Currently, there is no risk of humans being infected by wild birds such as geese.

- No information with regard to COVID-19 infecting animals of the Arctic is available. There appears to be a low risk of transmission from animals to humans. The situation is changing constantly and information will be sent to Nunavik hunters when it becomes available.
- In the United States, a tiger tested positive after showing clinical signs and appears to have been infected by a zookeeper. This seems to indicate that human-to-animal transmission is possible, but nothing yet proves that the opposite (animal-to-human transmission) is possible. It is also important to note that even though tigers react to the virus, the same cannot be said for other wild animals.

