



Organisation  
Mondiale  
de la Santé  
Animale

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal

Director General

Paris, 6th April 2020

Our ref: GM/CC 60.8645

Mr Robin Horel  
President, International Poultry Council  
2300 West Park Place Blvd., Suite 100 Stone Mountain  
Georgia, UNITED STATES 30087

Dear Mr Horel

Thank you for your letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 that was also sent to FAO and WTO.

The OIE, together with other international organisations, agrees that it is essential that food supply chains operate with as little disruption as possible to ensure food security and is continuing to communicate the message that to date there is not enough scientific evidence to identify the source or to explain the original route of transmission from an animal source to humans, and that based on currently available information, there is no scientific evidence to justify the introduction of additional sanitary measures for the international trade of animals or animal products for countries reporting cases of COVID in humans.

I wish to inform you that the OIE as part of its incident response has convened two *ad hoc* Groups (the OIE *ad hoc* Group on COVID-19 at the human-animal interface and the OIE *ad hoc* Group on COVID-19 risk assessment) to provide the OIE with up to date information and scientific opinion on human animal interface aspects of COVID-19 and on potential issues relating to trade. Since the COVID-19 situation is evolving rapidly, these groups aim to ensure that OIE's risk communication is informed by the latest valid scientific information. The OIE also remains in contact with OIE Reference Centres who are carrying out infection studies to assess the potential host range of COVID-19 including in poultry; results from these studies are expected in the coming weeks.

I also invite you to regularly check the Q&A pages on the OIE website where we are providing all relevant information: <https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019novel-coronavirus/>

We are also actively communicating with OIE Member Countries to ensure they are up to date with relevant scientific information and encouraging them to continue to base their risk mitigation decisions on OIE international standards and in line with the WTO SPS Agreement. We are also in regular contact with our colleagues at Codex to ensure information sharing as well as alignment of our communication messages.

In response to your request for our support to ensure continuing air transport of day-old chicks, poultry and hatching eggs, we are also communicating with our Members regarding the importance of ensuring that they do all that is possible to ensure ongoing food security whilst ensuring that sanitary measures are respected as well as animal welfare.

Thank you for your letter and know that we share your concerns and are doing all we can to ensure our Members act responsibly during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Eloit', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Monique Eloit