

Tiger Tests Positive for Coronavirus

A Malay tiger named Nadia at the Bronx Zoo has tested positive for SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes CoVID-19. Six other big cats at the zoo, three tigers and three lions, are also displaying similar symptoms. These symptoms include coughs and a loss of appetite. The test used by the zoo's veterinary team is not the same one as used by healthcare providers, and the zoo was able to confirm Nadia's diagnosis after sending samples to the New York State Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell University and the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The zoo has been closed since March 16th, so it likely the tiger contracted the virus from an asymptomatic zookeeper.

It's the first time, to our knowledge, that a [wild] animal has gotten sick from COVID-19 from a person...It's the only thing that makes sense..."

Paul Calle, chief veterinarian for the Bronx Zoo

Related:

- *Does Elderberry Increase Risk Of Death With CoVID-19?*
- *Coronavirus – Your Guide to the CoVID-19 Pandemic*
- *U.S. Registers Highest Number of Coronavirus Deaths in a Single Day*

Nadia is not the first animal that has tested positive for SARS-CoV2. Two dogs in Hong Kong and a domestic cat in Belgium have also been confirmed to have the virus. Cat's are particularly susceptible to the coronavirus, and a recent study has found that cats are able to transmit the virus to other cats through respiratory droplets.

According to the World Organisation for Animal Health and the World Health Organization, there is no evidence that SARS-Cov can be transmitted from domestic pets like cats and dogs to humans.

Sources:

- *Cats can infect each other with coronavirus, Chinese study finds* – The Guardian
- *Coronavirus: Tiger at Bronx Zoo tests positive for Covid-19* – BBC