

Press release



Maisons-Alfort, July 17, 2020

Covid-19 detection dogs: international partnerships



The National Veterinary School of Alfort is happy to announce the new international partnerships within the framework of the project for the detection of Covid-19 by dogs, led by Prof. Dominique Grandjean. Argentina, Brazil, Belgium and Dubai, among others, have called upon the expertise of the «Nosaïs-Covid19» team.

A new step for the «Nosaïs-Covid19» project to go international. The first Covid screening trials using dogs sniffing axillary sweat samples were initiated by Prof. Dominique Grandjean and his team at EnvA at the end of April, producing significant results that were published as a «preprint». Several countries have requested the «Nosaïs» expertise to develop a similar protocol for operational mass screening purposes: Argentina and Chile are planning to deploy it in airports, Brazil, Australia and soon Belgium. The United Arab Emirates,

thanks to the substantial resources deployed, is currently deploying the 20 teams already trained at Dubai airport. The implementation of a system at the arrival of tourist cruise ships is also envisaged.

Research work continues to determine the sensitivity and specificity values of the canine approach. Eight dogs work daily on the EnvA campus near Paris, while eight others work in Southern Corsica. The initial work is finishing in Lebanon, in collaboration with the Saint-Joseph University in Beirut. Representatives of Nosaïs and two trainers from Cynopro Detection Dog, a company specializing in the detection of explosives, are travelling to the Lebanese capital in mid-July to set up the training programme for Lebanese police dogs.

Nosaïs-Covid19 is carried in partnership with the military hospital Bégin, the AP-HP (Assistance publique - Hôpitaux de Paris), the Cynophile company of the police prefecture, the fire brigades of Seine-et-Marne and Oise, the gendarmes and firemen of Southern Corsica and the companies Cynopro detection dog and Diagnose.

EnvA teams have been mobilized since the beginning of the SARS-CoV-2 health crisis. Nosaïs is an illustration of this. The joint EnvA-Anses-Inrae virology unit coordinates ambitious projects to understand this coronavirus.

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