

PRESS RELEASE

DETECTION OF COVID BY DOGS : WHO SUPPORTS THE PROJECT

Maisons-Alfort, 10/12/2020

Launched in March 2020, the *Nosaïs-Covid19* project initiated by Pr Dominique Grandjean is progressing. The study aimed at demonstrating the ability of dogs to detect Covid-19 is now supported by the World Health Organization. A convention has just been signed.

The National Veterinary School of Alfort (EnvA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) signed an agreement to support the *Nosaïs-Covid19* project to demonstrate the ability of detection of Covid-19 by dogs. The international institution validated the global study carried out by Pr Dominique Grandjean, EnvA, since last March.

This agreement provides with financial support with an exceptional grant to EnvA, and the creation of a joint international working group with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in which EnvA will participate with teams from the United Kingdom, the United States and Finland. WHO also decided to use the practical guide for the training of the Covid-19 detection dog written by Pr Grandjean's team as a basis for the edition of an international training standard.

Since the summer of 2020, the *Nosaïs* project has taken an international dimension with interest from organizations in many states. Australia, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Spain, Tunisia, Namibia and Belgium are following the French approach. Iceland, the Czech Republic, India, Georgia, Romania, Honduras, Peru and Ecuador have expressed their interest in the approach and will begin a partnership.

Nosaïs-Covid19 is carried in partnership with the military hospital Bégin, the AP-HP, the Foch Hospital (Suresnes), the police dog company of the prefecture of police, the fire departments of Yvelines, Seine-et-Marne and Oise, the gendarmes and firemen of South Corsica and the companies Cynopro detection dog and Diagnose. The Departments of Guadeloupe and Reunion Island and the New Aquitaine Region (University Hospital of Bordeaux, Firefighters and Gendarmes of Gironde) have joined the partners. The project also benefits from private support (Royal Canin, Dior, Domes pharma and private individuals).

EnvA is a major scientific institution which, in the context of the fight against Covid-19, carries out numerous partnership projects. The joint research unit of Virology (EnvA-Anses-Inrae) coordinates ambitious projects on the understanding of this coronavirus and is the subject of European grants. Partnerships are also close with the Institut Pasteur with several studies in progress or already published.

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