

From: [Chris Tomsen](#)
To: [Miller, Shannon D \(DEC\)](#)
Subject: Support for M.Ovi testing - Alaska
Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 5:18:15 PM

Dear AK Dept Environmental Conservation

I am an adult resident of Alaska and a conservationist, hunter, and outdoorsman. As a past member of the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society (now a WSF member) and having resided in Washington and Colorado, I have learned about the decimation of populations and bands of wild sheep across the American west, primarily by lung diseases brought by contact and overlap of range with domestic sheep and herbivores. We can protect our Alaskan wild sheep by acting now.

Just as Native peoples were decimated by lung diseases for which they had no immunities, so could our Alaskan wild sheep be decimated by pneumonia-like varieties of M.Ovi.

We must test all domestic sheep and goats coming in to Alaska to prevent pneumonia threating lung diseases which could result from these animals transmission of M.Ovi pathogens. M.Ovi needs to be added to our Reportable Disease List.

My understanding is that accredited AAVLD diagnostic labs are likely best to handle such testing - let's use them.

Hunters are doing their part and should continue with lung tissue submissions in susceptible populations. Same day reporting of potential M.Ovi cases should be enacted for both wild and domestic animals.

We get our humans noses swabbed to prevent Covid transmissions- lets test our imports for M.Ovi

Appreciatively,

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