

Statement of the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut on „Schmallenberg Virus“

After the discovery of a new Orthobunyavirus, which was provisionally named "Schmallenberg virus," the FLI received numerous requests for virus isolates, protocols of our newly developed and validated in-house real-time RT-PCR, and disclosure of sequence information of the viral genome. After intensive discussion within the FLI, we have decided to forgo applying for patents, etc., as this could adversely affect the disclosure of information crucial to combat this new infection, thereby minimizing the impact on livestock production.

As a federally funded governmental research institute, we feel it is appropriate to supply the virus isolated by us, the protocol for genome detection, and sequence information on the viral genome to all scientists and scientific communities who want to contribute to the understanding of this new infection. Therefore, we are happy to forward this information and reagents for non-commercial and commercial purposes under the conditions laid down in our material exchange document. As far as possible, we will do our best to serve the requests in a timely manner. Sequence information on the viral genome, documented in GenBank, is made available as soon as we have received the necessary access data.

On behalf of the Schmallenberg Virus Research Group at the FLI,

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Thomas C. Mettenleiter, President
Dr. Martin Beer, Head of the Institute of Diagnostic Virology