

### **Pandemic Preparedness: Livestock Surveillance is an Important Goal**

COVID-19 expert Christian Drosten, Head of the Institute of Virology, Charité at the World Health Summit

*(Berlin, Oct. 26, 2020)*

On Monday, the second day of the World Health Summit, COVID-19 was again a central topic.

Christian Drosten, Head of the Institute of Virology, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin explained, why Germany was successful during the first COVID-19 wave in spring: “Unlike many other countries Germany had high testing capacities early on.” The early lockdown in Germany, Christian Drosten said, “is a successful example of academic collaboration.”

Later in his academic speech, he focused on the importance of academic collaboration: “Academic collaboration is in place and is really a bridging partnership”. Christian Drosten called for better financial resources: “Better financing for this essential tier of collaboration on the working level is absolutely essential.”

To prevent the a pandemic in the future, the scientist counts on recognizing it early. Livestock surveillance is an important goal he said: “The best guess would be, looking at virus origins, virus reservoirs, is to focus on livestock species: To switch from just some research studies into real surveillance.” Wildlife surveillance is hardly doable, he said, but “livestock surveillance is a goal that can be achieved even in the countries of the global south.”

The entire program of the World Health Summit 2020 will be broadcast live digitally: The individual Zoom links are available cost-free on [www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org). During all sessions, questions can be asked via the Zoom Q&A function, video and audio can be used on request.

All sessions are also available here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WorldHealthSummit1>

### **Accreditation for media representatives is not required.**

On the third day of the summit, Tuesday, Oct. 27, speakers include (all data in CET):

- Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (9:00 am & 11:00 am)
- Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations (2:00 pm)
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization WHO (4:00 pm)
- Christian Drosten, Head, Institute of Virology, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany (9:00 am & 2:00 pm)
- Andrea Ammon, Director, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (11:00 am)
- George F. Gao, Director, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (14:00 pm)
- John Nkengasong, Director, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (11:00 am)
- Michael Ryan, Director of Emergency Relief, World Health Organization WHO (11:00 am)
- Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF (4:00 pm)

The **World Health Summit** is one of the world's most important strategic meetings on global health and brings together leading international scientists, politicians, and representatives from industry and civil society. The forum was founded in 2009 to mark the 300th anniversary of the Charité and is under the patronage of German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**, French President **Emmanuel Macron**,



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European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** and **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, Director-General of the World Health Organization WHO.

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