

Review of: "SARS-CoV-2 exposure in wild white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)"

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Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

Limited work has been done on coronaviruses in white-tailed deer. Overall, the results indicate that certain white-tailed deer populations in several States were exposed to SARS-CoV-2. The commercially available SARS-CoV-2 antibody screening test used here is known to be highly specific (accurate) for use in other species. Although this has not been validated on deer, authors also tested a subset of samples using a different test specific to SARS-CoV-2. Both analyses resulted in identical findings. In addition, authors analyzed samples collected before and after SARS-CoV-2 was detected in humans in the Country.

Minor:

- Paragraph 3: mention artificial feeding a overabundance in certain areas, including increased intra-specific contact in such points, and potential indirect contact with human (highest prevalence detected in Michigan, where these practices are common, e.g. implication for bTB)
- Provide citation for the second test