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October 29, 2020 - **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

UARC Plans Demonstration Outside Lehi Mink Farm; Calling on Governor to Shut Down COVID-19 Factories

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Holding a banner declaring the site a dangerous “biohazard,” protesters with the Utah Animal Rights Coalition (UARC) will descend on a mink farm in Lehi on Friday afternoon calling for the closure of the facility and all other mink farms due to their role in transmission of COVID-19. Thousands of mink have already died of COVID-19 on Utah mink farms, [with *The Salt Lake Tribune* reporting](#) that increasing evidence points to transmission from mink to humans.

Earlier this month, UARC obtained [a video clip](#) from the Fur Commission USA’s recent annual meeting, where a veterinarian and researcher for the fur industry admits that new research reveals that COVID-19 is transmissible from mink to people, and that the virus may even mutate into stronger forms while in the mink before being transmitted to humans. Publicly, the fur industry has downplayed the public health threat, and it has asked the FBI to investigate how UARC obtained the video clip from their industry meeting.

“Governor Herbert’s response to the COVID-19 has been to prioritize the profits of a handful of well-connected industries rather than to protect the public health,” said Jeremy Beckham, MPH, Executive Director of UARC. “Mink farming is a not an essential industry, it is a cruel, outdated practice that is now endangering the health of all Utahns. It’s time to close these COVID-19 factories for good.”

WHAT: UARC Protest of Mink Farm
WHERE: K & J Fur Farm, 1440 W. Main St., Lehi, UT 84043
WHEN: Friday, October 30, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

*For more information and to view the letters from UARC to Governor Herbert,
please visit <http://uarc.io>.*

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