

## Current major event

### Langya virus: A new zoonotic virus

Investigators in China has identified a new zoonotic henipavirus associated with a febrile human illness. The Langya virus has been found in a few patients and one animal population according to a survey conducted from April 2018 to August 2021. No cases have been reported outside of this sentinel surveillance project. Further research and monitoring are needed to better understand the ecology of this virus.

### Editorial note

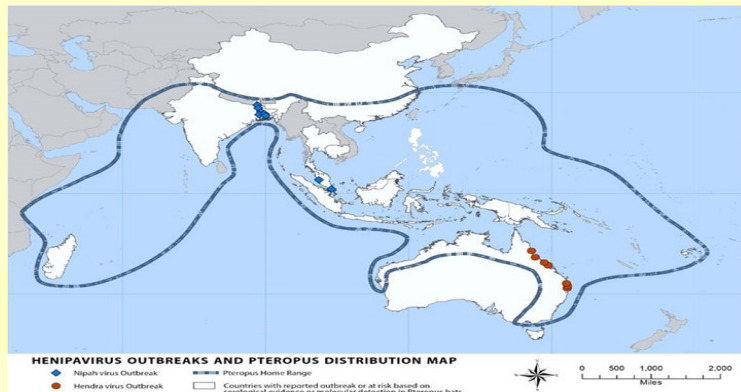
The Hendra virus and the Nipah virus, which belong to the genus henipavirus in the family Paramyxoviridae, are known to infect humans and cause fatal disease. However, other related henipaviruses have been detected in bats, rodents and shrews.

During sentinel surveillance of febrile patients with a recent history of animal exposure in Eastern China, a phylogenetically distinct henipavirus, named Langya henipavirus (LayV), was identified in a throat swab sample from one patient by means of metagenomic analysis and subsequent virus isolation.

A report published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) indicates that during sentinel surveillance of febrile patients with animal exposure in Eastern China, a “new” virus belonging to the henipavirus genus was detected in December 2018 in 1 patient. The henipavirus genus includes 5 other virus species, among them Hendra and Nipah species that are known to be pathogenic in humans. Up to August 2021, 34 additional patients tested positive for this virus, bringing the total to 35. Among these 35 patients, 26 were infected with the Langya virus only. These 26 patients presented with fever (100% of the patients), fatigue (54%), cough (50%), anorexia (50%), myalgia (46%), nausea (38%), headache (35%), and vomiting (35%).

Published data indicates that these patients exhibited a range of respiratory symptoms. No deaths have been reported among these patients. No evidence of human-to-human transmission has been reported so far and transmission seems to have resulted from spill over from animal reservoir to human. Additional testing was conducted among domestic animals and wild animals, and viral RNA was detected mainly in shrews, suggesting that they may be the natural reservoir of the virus.

## Locations of Henipavirus infection outbreaks



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/hendra/outbreaks/distribution-map.html>

### Strategic directions for control of zoonotic infections (RC-6I session):

- Building effective collaboration between animal and human health sectors.
- Improving surveillance for early detection of disease threats in humans.
- Strengthening laboratory diagnostic capacities for novel pathogens.
- Improving case management and infection control.
- Integrating vector control management.
- Reducing transmission through social and behavioural interventions.
- Developing epidemic preparedness and response capacities for emerging zoonoses.
- Enhancing political commitment, national planning and coordination mechanisms.
- Strengthening preparedness, surveillance and response.
- National capacity building and promoting research.
- Enhancing regional and international cooperation and collaboration.
- Health education, risk communication and social mobilization.

Source: <http://www.emro.who.int/about-who/rc61/zoonotic-diseases.html>

WHO is monitoring the situation as part of its routine global emerging infectious disease activities, and based on evidence and information available, there are no major public health concerns at this time. WHO encourages countries and research institutions to continue to collaborate and gather scientific data on newly discovered pathogens and to communicate as early as possible about the identification of new pathogens. WHO recommends that febrile patients in high risk areas to seek medical advice as per national guidelines and also advises of following best practices in handling wildlife at all times.

## Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

### COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

#### Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019-2022

Afghanistan	[190 767 (7764), 4.1%]
Bahrain	[669 392 (1513), 0.2%]
Djibouti	[15 690 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[515 264 (24 791), 4.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 503 369 (143 332) 1.9%]
Iraq	[2 454 213 (25 338), 1%]
Jordan	[1 731 549 (14 105), 0.8%]
Kuwait	[657 042 (2563), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 203 404 (10 599), 0.9%]
Libya	[506 538 (6436), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 263 943 (16 270), 1.3%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[698 384 (5694), 0.8%]
Oman	[397 574 (4628), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 566 236 (30 552), 2%]
Qatar	[423 118 (681), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[812 535 (9276) 1.1%]
Somalia	[27 020 (1361), 5%]
Sudan	[63 172 (4961), 7.9%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[56 838 (3160), 5.6%]
Tunisia	[1 141 773 (29 209), 2.6%]
United Arab Emirates	[1 009 116 (2341), 0.2%]
Yemen	[11 915 (2153), 18.1%]