



Nipah Virus

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Recently, a 14-year-old boy from Kerala died after testing positive for the **Nipah virus**.

- **Nipah virus (NiV)** is a [zoonotic virus \(transmitted from animals to humans\)](#) and can also be transmitted through **contaminated food or directly between people**.
- **Nature:** The organism that causes Nipah Virus encephalitis is an RNA or [Ribonucleic acid virus](#) of the **family Paramyxoviridae**, genus Henipavirus, and is closely related to **Hendra virus**.
- **Hosts and Transmission:** NiV initially appeared in **domestic pigs, dogs, cats, goats, horses, and sheep**.
 - It spreads through **fruit bats (genus Pteropus)**. The virus is found in bat urine, faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.
- **Fatality:** The case fatality rate ranges from **40% to 75%**.
- **Symptoms:** Causes encephalitic syndrome in humans, presenting with fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion, coma, and potentially death.
- **Diagnosis:** Diagnosis can be established through [real-time polymerase chain reaction \(RT-PCR\)](#) from bodily fluids and antibody detection via [enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay \(ELISA\)](#).
- **Prevention:** **No vaccines available** for humans or animals.
- **WHO Response:** It has identified Nipah as a **priority disease**

Read More: [Nipah virus Infection \(NiV\)](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/nipah-virus-4>