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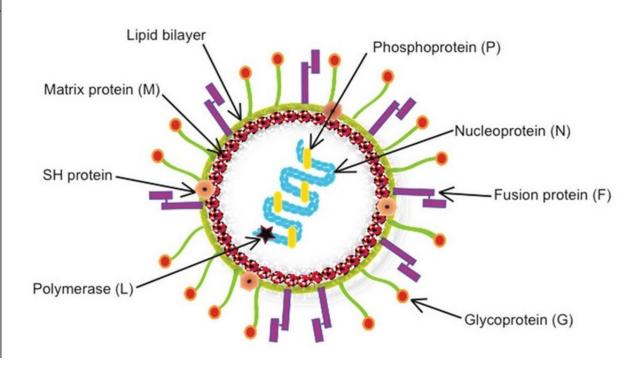
## **HMPV** Virus

## Source: HT

The recent surge in **respiratory illnesses in China**, linked to **Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)**, has sparked fears of another pandemic.

- However, the <u>World Health Organization (WHO</u>) has not reported a new <u>pandemic</u>, issued emergency warnings, or declared a health crisis related to HMPV.
- About HMPV:
  - **Discovery**: It was **discovered in 2001** by researchers in **the Netherlands. It** causes acute respiratory infections, similar to **flu and <u>Covid-19</u>**.
  - Presence: It is not limited to China and is found all over the world. It is clubbed as a common <u>respiratory pathogen</u>. It does not have a vaccine.
  - Symptoms: Cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, and wheezing, which typically resolve within 2-5 days.
  - Vulnerable Groups: Children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk of complications like pneumonia.
  - Transmission: HMPV spreads through close contact or by touching contaminated surfaces.
  - Seasonality: It commonly circulates during winter and spring, along with other respiratory infections like <u>Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)</u> and <u>influenza</u>.
    - HMPV belongs to the Pneumoviridae family, which includes RSV, measles, and mumps viruses.
  - Severity: While most HMPV cases are mild, a small percentage (5-16%) may develop into severe conditions like bronchiolitis or pneumonia.

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