

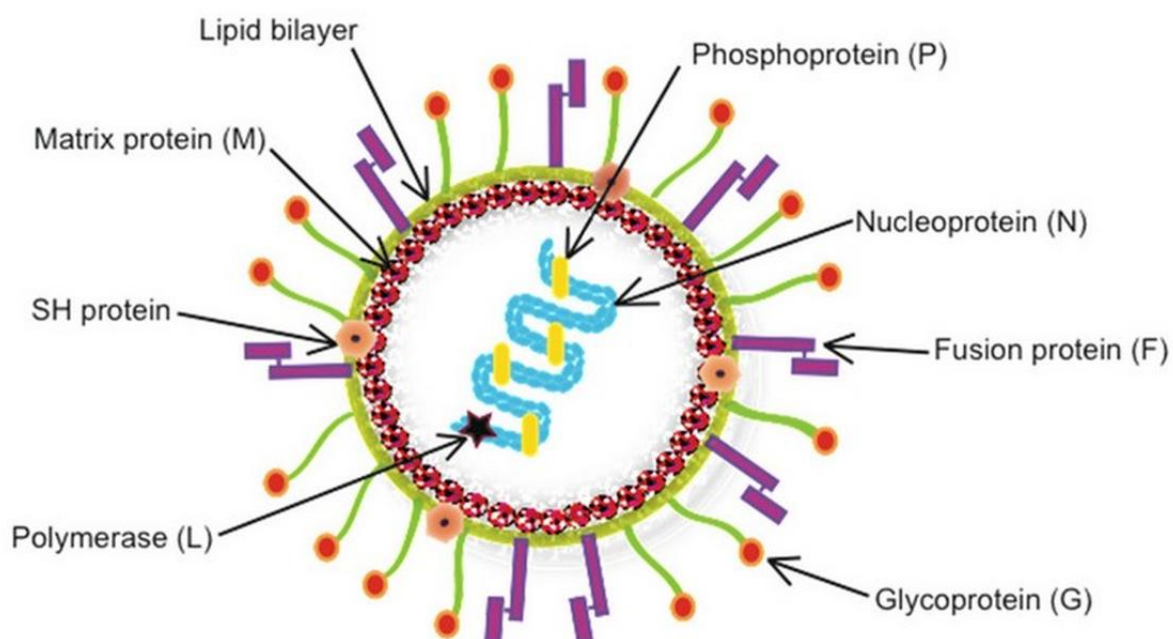


HMPV Virus

[Source: HT](#)

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

- However, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) has **not** reported a **new pandemic**, 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 Covid-19**.
 - **Presence:** It is not limited to **China** and is found **all over the world**. It is clubbed as a **common respiratory pathogen**. 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 [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\)](#) and [influenza](#).
 - 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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