

7 Things You Need to Know about

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE- COVID 19



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What is it?

- COVID 19 is a viral infection caused by corona virus named as SARS-CoV-2.
- Case zero of COVID 19 was recorded in Wuhan city of China.
- Outbreaks of COVID 19 are recorded from 212 nations and territories globally.
- It has caused over 13.50 lakhs cases and 80 thousand deaths worldwide.
- In India over five thousand cases and 166 deaths are caused by COVID 19.

How it spread?

- People can catch COVID-19 from infected persons who cough or sneeze through inhaling small droplets (aerosols) or through touching contaminated surfaces and then touching nose, mouth or eyes.
- Human-to-human transmission chain is very significant in COVID 19 spread.
- As such role of animals and birds in the spread of COVID 19 is not reported.
- However, there are two incidents reported recently wherein SARS-CoV-2 virus was detected in the Malayan Tiger from Bronx zoo, New York and in domestic cat from Belgium.
- In both the incidences, it is proposed that virus must have transmitted from COVID 19 positive human or their environment.
- The role of other domestic animals and birds in epidemiology and spread of COVID 19 is not yet reported.

What are the symptoms?

- In humans, clinical manifestations of COVID 19 may vary from mild fever, cold, dry cough, runny nose, head ache, malaise to critical symptoms

Are animals responsible for COVID-19 in people?

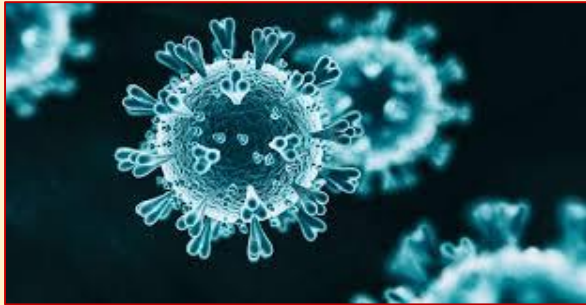
- The predominant route of transmission of COVID-19 is from human to human.
- Genetic sequence data reveals that the COVID-19 virus is a close relative of other CoV found circulating in *Rhinolophus* bat.
- However, to date, there is not enough scientific evidence to identify the source of the COVID-19 virus or to explain the original route of transmission to humans.
- Investigations are needed to find the source and to determine how the virus entered the human population.

Can animals be infected with COVID-19 virus?

- According to the OIE, studies are underway to better understand the susceptibility of different animal species to the COVID-19 virus.
- OIE has mentioned that COVID-19 virus infections are widely distributed in the human population and there is a possibility for some animals to become infected through close contact with infected humans.
- Domestic cats and a tiger have tested positive to COVID-19 virus following close contact with infected humans. Preliminary findings from laboratory studies suggest that, of the animal species investigated so far, cats are the most susceptible species for COVID-19, and cats can be affected with clinical disease.
- In the laboratory setting cats were able to transmit infection to other cats.
- Ferrets also appear to be susceptible to infection but less so to disease. In the laboratory setting ferrets were also able to transmit infection to other ferrets.
- Egyptian fruit bats were also infected in the laboratory setting but did not show signs of

like shortness in breath, pneumonia, sepsis, shock, acute respiratory distress syndrome etc.

- The risk of infection is more in immunocompromised people.
- COVID 19 infection may occur in people of any age and sex.



HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM INFECTION



Avoid close contact with sick people, especially people who are coughing or sneezing.



Cough and sneeze in your elbow or in a tissue, NOT your hand. Dispose of the used tissue immediately in a closed bin and wash your hands with soap and water.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth without washing your hands first.



Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds OR use an alcohol-based disinfectant after coughing/sneezing, before eating and preparing food, after toilet use, after touching surfaces in public places.



Practice social distancing: Maintain at least 1 metre distance between yourself and others, especially anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

disease or the ability to transmit infection efficiently to other bats.

- To date, preliminary findings from studies suggest that poultry and pigs, are not susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that animals infected by humans are playing a role in the spread of COVID-19.
- Human outbreaks are driven by person to person contact. Further information in this regard may please be obtained from the OIE website (www.oie.int).

What precautionary measures should be taken when companion or other animals have close contact with humans sick or suspected with COVID-19?

According to OIE guidelines, currently, there is no evidence that companion animals are playing a significant epidemiological role in this human disease. However, it is still recommended by OIE that;

- People who are sick with COVID-19, they should avoid contact with companion and other animals.
- When handling and caring for animals, basic hygiene measures should always be implemented. This includes hand washing before and after being around or handling animals, their food, or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing, licking or sharing food.
- When possible, people who are sick with COVID-19 should avoid close contact with their pets and have another member of their household care for their animals.
- If they must look after their pet, they should maintain good hygiene practices and wear a face mask if possible.
- Animals belonging to owners infected with COVID-19 should be kept indoors as much as possible and contact with those pets should be avoided as much as possible.

Compiled by: R.P. Kolhe, V.S. Waskar and S.R. Kolhe, KNP College of Veterinary Science, Shirwal, Dist-Satara. For more and updated information please visit WHO and OIE websites (www.who.int and www.oie.int): Updated on 10th April, 2020.

Disclaimer: The information compiled in this leaflet is based on the published reports and guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and scientific studies reported so far.