# Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) Infection

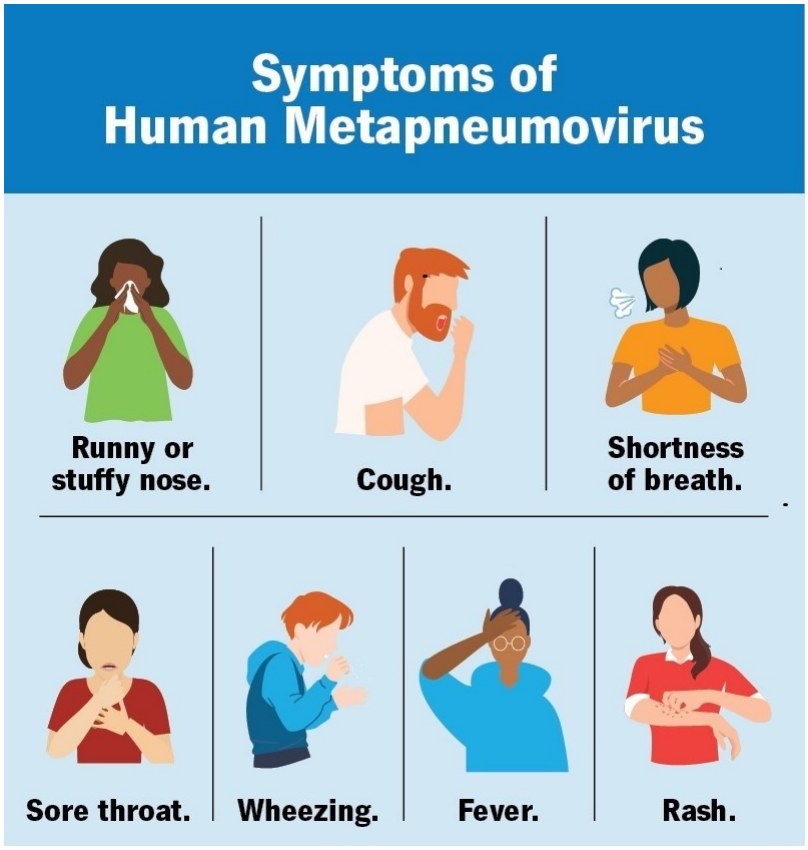
## Why in News?

*An outbreak of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in China has raised alarm globally.*

- **HMPV** – It is a common *respiratory virus* that causes lower and upper respiratory infections (like a cold).
- It falls in the Pneumoviridae family along with RSV.

***Pneumoviridae family** includes respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), measles and mumps.*

- **Seasonal disease** – It usually *occurs in the winter and early spring*, similar to Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and the flu.
- **Risk factors** – ***All age groups***, especially among young children under the age of 14, older adults, & people with weakened immune systems.
    - Lung conditions such as *Asthma or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)* should be extra cautious.
- **Transmission –** Through bodily secretions from coughs, sneezes
- Close contact with an infected person such as shaking hands, hugging.
- Touching a doorknob or a phone or a keyboard that may be contaminated with the virus & then touching the mouth, nose or eyes.
- **Incubation period** – *3 to 6 days.*
- **Symptoms** – Cough, runny or blocked nose, sore, throat, fever and wheezing which progress to *bronchitis or pneumonia*.




- **Treatment** – There is *currently no vaccine*, and antiviral treatment is not recommended.
- **Precautions** – *Wash hands often* with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

*India hadn't registered any unusual spike in winter respiratory diseases.*

**Reference**

The Hindu| Rise of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in China

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering