



## A(H9N2) Virus

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### Why in News

Avian influenza A(H9N2) virus infection has been reported in a 17-month-old boy in Maharashtra.

This is the country's first human case of infection with H9N2 virus. H9N2 viruses have been observed in poultry in India several times.

### Key Points

- **About H9N2 Virus**
  - H9N2 is a **subtype of influenza A virus**, which causes **human influenza as well as bird flu**.
  - The H9N2 subtype was isolated for the first time in Wisconsin, US in 1966 from turkey flocks.
  - H9N2 viruses are found worldwide in wild birds and are endemic in poultry in many areas.
- **Cases of Human Infection**
  - H9N2 virus infections in humans are rare, but likely under-reported due to typically mild symptoms of the infections.
  - Cases of human infection have been observed in Hong Kong, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Egypt. The first case globally was reported from Hong Kong in 1998.
- **Emerging Threat**
  - H9N2 viruses could potentially play a major role in the emergence of the next influenza pandemic.
  - According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, with avian influenza viruses circulating in poultry, there is a risk for sporadic infection and small clusters of human cases due to exposure to infected poultry or contaminated environments.

**Source: TH**