



Future Pandemics and Reduction Measures

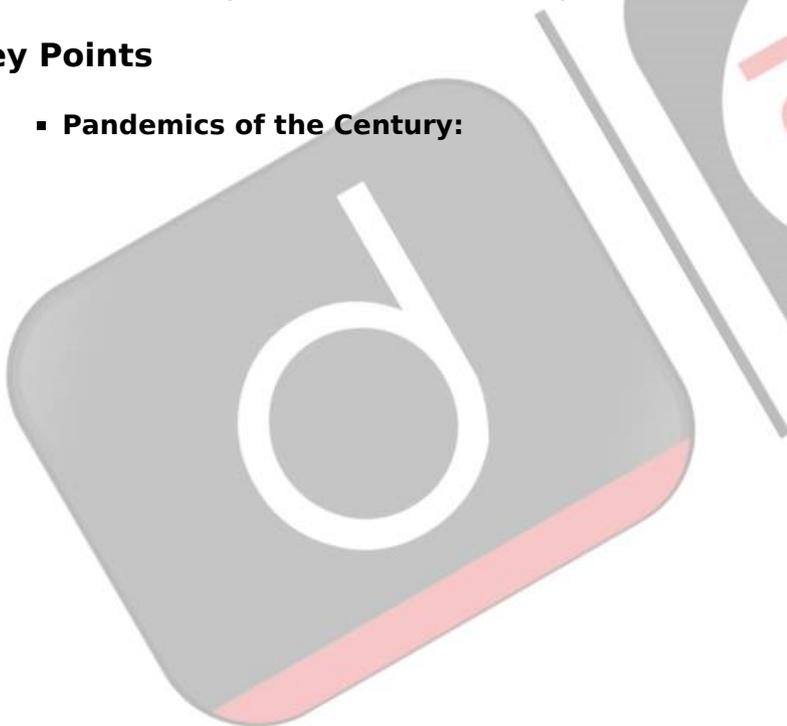
Why in News

Recently, the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem** (IPBES) has released a **report which warns about future [pandemics](#)**, their more frequent emergence, a faster pace of spread and more damage to the world killing more people than **Covid-19**, unless significant measures are taken.

- The IPBES is an independent intergovernmental body, **established by the [United Nations](#)** (UN) in 2012.
 - It **aims to strengthen the science-policy interface** for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

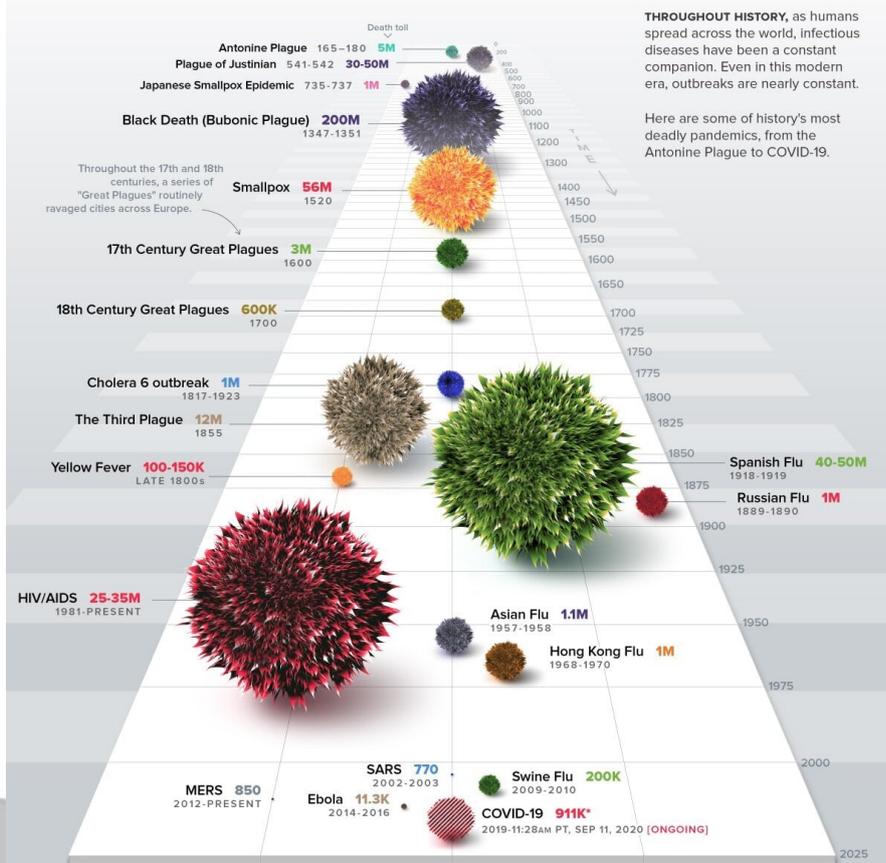
Key Points

- **Pandemics of the Century:**



HISTORY OF PANDEMICS

PAN-DEM-IC (of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world.



THROUGHOUT HISTORY, as humans spread across the world, infectious diseases have been a constant companion. Even in this modern era, outbreaks are nearly constant.

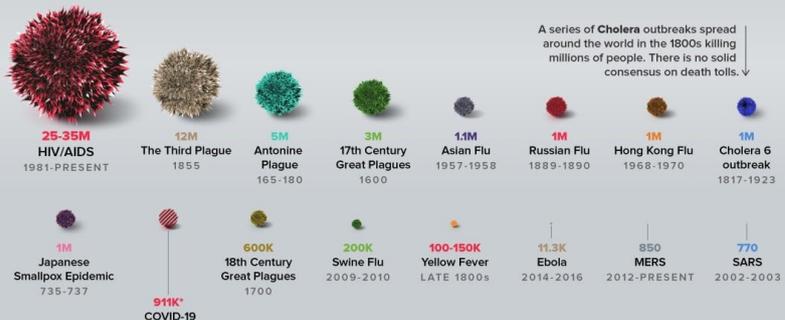
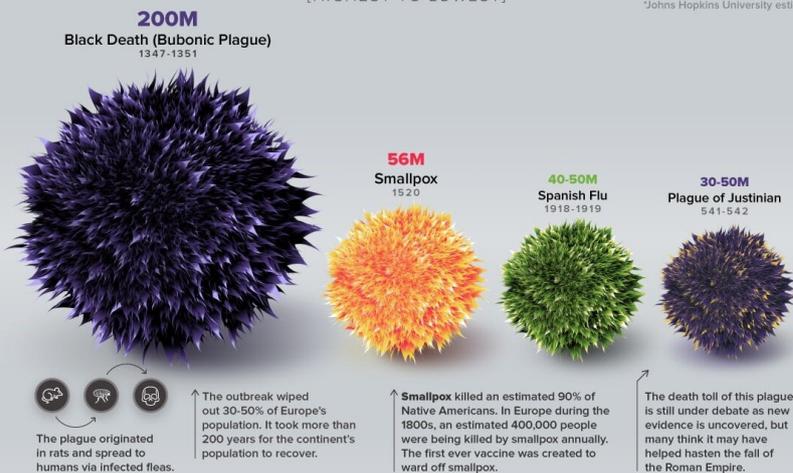
Here are some of history's most deadly pandemics, from the Antonine Plague to COVID-19.

WHO officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic on Mar 11, 2020.

It is hard to calculate and forecast the impact of COVID-19 because the disease is new to medicine, and data is still coming in.

*Johns Hopkins University estimates

DEATH TOLL [HIGHEST TO LOWEST]



2019-11:28AM PT, SEP 11, 2020 [ONGOING]
*Johns Hopkins University estimates

- Covid-19 is at least the sixth pandemic to have taken place in the last century since the [Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918](#).
 - In March 2020, the [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO) declared Covid-19 a pandemic.
- **Three** of the pandemics were caused **by influenza viruses**, one by [Human Immunodeficiency Virus](#) (HIV) followed by [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome](#) (SARS) and now Covid-19.

▪ **Causes:**

- Almost all the pandemics so far, have been [zoonoses](#) (diseases caused by germs that spread between animals and people).
- More than 70% of emerging diseases, such as [Ebola](#), [Zika](#) and [Nipah](#), are **caused by microbes found in animals** which **spread due to contact** among wildlife, livestock and people.
 - The estimated value of the legal international wildlife trade in 2019 was about USD 107 billion, a 500% increase since 2005 and a 2000% increase since the 1980s.
- **Covid-19's origins also lie in microbes carried by animals** but its **emergence has been entirely driven by human activities** like all pandemics.
- About 30% of emerging infectious diseases are attributed to [land-use change](#), **agricultural expansion** and **urbanisation**.

▪ **Future Possibilities:**

- Currently, there are over **1.7 million 'undiscovered' viruses** that exist in mammals and birds, out of which **up to 827,000 could have the ability to infect humans**.

▪ **Reduction Measures:**

- Pandemic risk can be lowered by **reducing the human activities that drive the loss of biodiversity**, by greater **conservation of protected areas** and through measures that **reduce unsustainable exploitation** of high biodiversity regions.
- These measures will help in **reducing the contact between wildlife-livestock and humans**, thereby **helping prevent the spread** of new diseases.
- Policy options like launching a **high-level intergovernmental council on pandemic prevention**, countries setting **mutually-agreed goals or targets** regarding the environment, animals and people, and **reducing zoonotic disease risk in the international wildlife trade** by forming intergovernmental 'health and trade' partnerships will also reduce the risks substantially.

Pandemic

- According to the WHO, a pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations.

Epidemic

- An epidemic is a large outbreak, one that spreads among a population or region. It is less severe than pandemic due to a limited area of spread.

[Source: IE](#)

