



# Brucellosis

## Why in News

Recently, Kerala launched preventive measures after a few cases of [brucellosis](#), a [zoonotic infection](#), have been detected in some dairy animals.

- Earlier in **September 2020** ["Brucella abortus S19Δ per vaccine"](#) was developed by the [Indian Council of Agricultural Research](#)'s -Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI) for brucellosis prevention in the dairy sector.

## Zoonotic Diseases

- It is a disease that **passes into the human population from an animal** source directly or through an intermediary species.
- Zoonotic infections **can be bacterial, viral, or parasitic** in nature, with animals playing a vital role in maintaining such infections.
- Examples of zoonoses include [HIV-AIDS](#), [Ebola](#), [Malaria](#), and the current [Covid-19 disease](#).

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- It is a **bacterial disease** caused by various Brucella species, which mainly **infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs**.
- It is also known as **Malta fever or Mediterranean fever**.
- Brucellosis is **endemic in India** causing huge economic losses to dairy industry due to:
  - Infertility
  - Abortion
  - Birth of weak off springs
  - Reduced productivity

### ▪ Infection to Humans:

#### ◦ Infection:

- Brucellosis has **infected over 3000 people in China**.
- Humans generally **acquire the disease through**:
  - Direct contact with infected animals.
  - Eating, drinking contaminated animal products, unpasteurized milk.
  - Inhaling airborne agents.
- The **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** states that person-to-person transmission of brucellosis is **"extremely rare"** but some symptoms may reoccur or never go away.

- **Symptoms:**

- **Fever, sweats, malaise, anorexia** (psychological disorder in which one eats less due to fear of weight gain), **headache and muscle pain.**

- **Treatment and prevention:**

- It is usually **treated with antibiotics**, including rifampin and doxycycline.
- **Avoiding unpasteurised dairy products** and taking safety precautions such as wearing rubber gloves, gowns or aprons, when handling animals or working in a laboratory can help prevent or reduce the risk of getting brucellosis.
- Other preventive measures include **cooking meat properly, vaccinating domestic animals, etc.**

[Source:TH](#)

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