

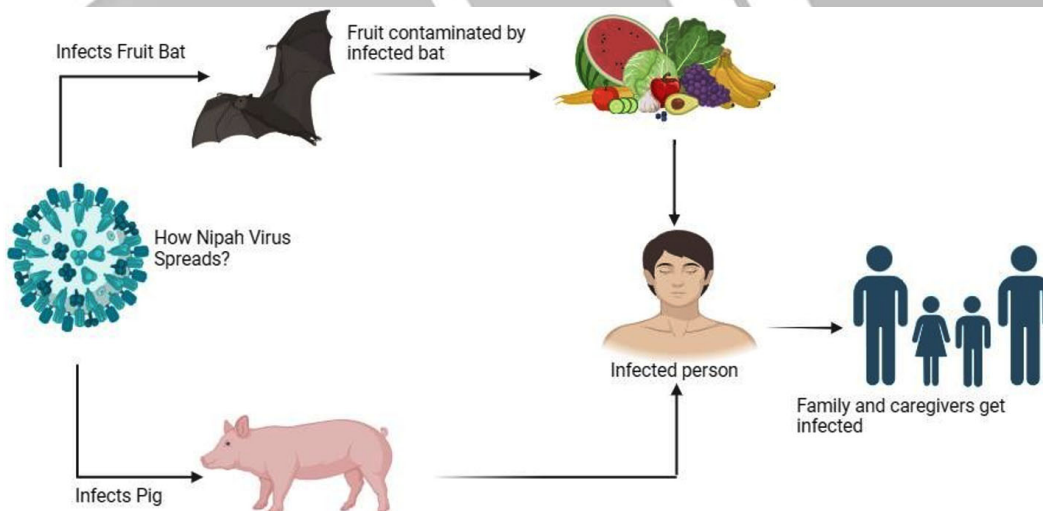


Nipah Virus

Source: [TH](#)

Health experts and physicians have raised concerns about the **deadly Nipah virus' transmission** from animals to humans in Kerala.

- **About Nipah Virus:** The Nipah virus (NiV) is a **zoonotic virus** that can spread from **animals to humans**, as well as through **contaminated food** or **direct human-to-human** transmission.
- **Causative Agent:** Nipah virus encephalitis is caused by an **RNA (ribonucleic acid)** virus belonging to the family **Paramyxoviridae**, genus **Henipavirus**, and is closely related to the **Hendra virus**.
- **Host:** NiV was first identified in domestic animals such as **pigs, dogs, cats, goats, horses, and sheep**.
 - The virus is transmitted by **fruit bats** of the genus **Pteropus** and is present in their **urine, feces, saliva, and birthing fluids**.
- **Symptoms:** NiV causes **encephalitic syndrome** in humans, with symptoms like **fever, headache, drowsiness, confusion, and coma**, often leading to **death**. The fatality rate is **40% to 75%**.
- **Diagnosis:** Diagnosis is done via **real time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)** from body fluids. **No vaccines** exist for humans or animals.
- **WHO Stand:** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has designated Nipah as a **priority disease**.



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