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GLOBAL THREATS

Nipah Virus Not Much of a Risk — Unless Humans Interfere, John Campbell Says

Two cases of the rare Nipah virus were confirmed in India, prompting several Asian countries to increase airport health screenings. Experts say the virus spreads slowly and poses little global risk, with no cases reported in Western countries. Medical commentator John Campbell, Ph.D., warned that the greatest danger comes from human interference in laboratories, not natural transmission.

by **Jill Erzen**

FEBRUARY 3, 2026



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6 min

Several Asian countries are implementing COVID-19-style health checks after two cases of a rare, deadly virus were confirmed in India, according to **ABC News**.

The Nipah virus carries a high fatality rate, estimated by the **World Health Organization** (WHO) at 40%-75%. However, medical commentator **John Campbell, Ph.D.**, said it poses little danger globally.

"Yes, it is a risk. And no, I don't think it is much of a risk at the moment," he said.

The virus's greatest threat comes from human interference, according to Campbell.

"The reason I'm saying yes, it is a potential risk, is it could be weaponized. It could be messed around with in laboratories. **Gain-of-function research** could be carried out on it, it would leak, and then, of course, it would be a significant risk," he said.

India's health authorities deployed an outbreak response team in January after one man and one woman, both 25-year-old nurses in the Indian state of West Bengal, were diagnosed with the virus, ABC News reported.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it is "monitoring" the situation.

Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore are among the countries that ramped up airport screening efforts, incorporating thermal scanners, travel history checks and health declarations, according to the **Hindustan Times**.

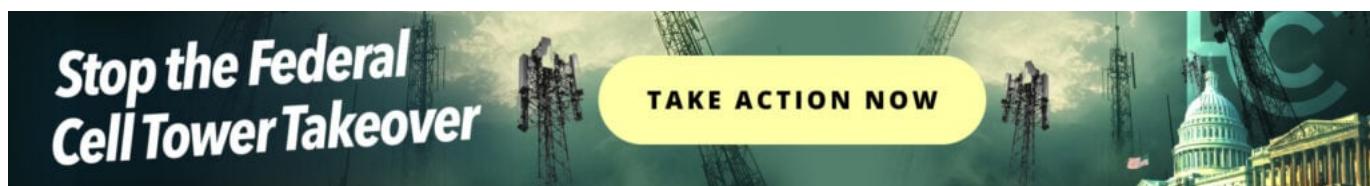
Reuters reported that the screenings are more for public "reassurance" than to stop the virus from spreading.

No additional cases have been detected, and the **WHO said the risk remains "low"** at the national, regional and global levels.

Fruit bats, also known as flying foxes, are the natural carriers of the **Nipah virus**. Other animals — including horses, dogs, cats and pigs — have become infected and, in some cases, passed the virus to humans, Campbell said.

The virus most commonly spreads through contaminated food or direct contact. It can also pass from person to person through close contact with an infected individual or exposure to their bodily fluids.

The virus has never been identified in Western countries, and there is currently no drug treatment or vaccine.



Deadly virus only a threat 'if people are messing around' with it in labs

The WHO has called the Nipah virus a "priority pathogen" due to its epidemic potential.

However, **Piero Olliaro, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor of Poverty-Related Infectious Diseases at the University of Oxford, said in **Science Media Centre** that “the virus does not transmit easily between people, and sustained community-wide spread has not been observed, resulting in outbreaks that are typically small and localized.”

“Based on what we currently know, there is a very low likelihood that this outbreak will cause a large international epidemic,” Olliaro added.

Campbell said researchers at **Boston University** suspect that person-to-person transmission through inhalation likely occurs via droplets. “It’s not **airborne** in the way that influenza or SARS coronavirus 2 was,” he said.

The two patients in India first developed symptoms in December 2025 and were hospitalized in January, according to **the WHO**. One patient is showing signs of improvement, while the other remains in critical care.

Authorities have since tested more than 190 people who had contact with the patients. All tested negative.

Campbell said his findings support the view that the virus spreads slowly. Antibodies for the virus have been found in bats across regions much broader than the reported cases of the disease would suggest, he said.

That means transmission of the disease “is hopefully fairly rare,” he said.

Campbell warned that the biggest threat to the public would come from lab-based human interference with the virus, not from natural spread.

“If people are messing around with this in the laboratory to **increase its transmissibility**, then it’s got massive pandemic potential,” he said.

The warning echoes debates over **COVID-19**, which followed years of **gain-of-function coronavirus research** abroad. The pandemic demonstrated how quickly engineered viruses can spread, and how governments can impose sweeping **public health measures** with limited input from the public.

"This just shows the risk of gain-of-function research, and it could well be being carried out. It probably is somewhere," Campbell said. "There's no limit to the arrogance of human beings who think they contain it but then find it leaks."

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No documented cases of Nipah virus in North America, UK, Australia

The Nipah virus was first identified in 1998 during an outbreak among pig farmers in Malaysia. It caused roughly 300 human cases and more than 100 deaths, according to **Discover** magazine. Authorities slaughtered millions of pigs to contain the spread.

Outbreaks have occurred primarily in rural or semi-rural regions of India, Bangladesh, Malaysia and parts of Southeast Asia. Since 2001, India has reported relatively few infection cases each year, with the exceptions of 2001, which saw 66 cases, and 2018, which saw 18 cases, the WHO said.

The virus has never been detected in the U.S., the U.K., Australia or elsewhere in North America.

Symptoms typically appear 4-21 days after exposure and include fever, respiratory problems, pneumonia and neurological complications such as encephalitis or meningitis, Campbell said. Survivors may face lasting neurological damage, seizures or personality changes. In rare cases, the virus can reactivate months or even years later.

Watch John Campbell discuss the Nipah virus here:

Is Nipah virus the next pandemic



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Jill Erzen

Jill Erzen is associate editor for The Defender. She earned her B.A. in journalism and English at the University of Iowa. She has 25 years of experience as a copy editor, copy desk chief and multimedia web editor for newspapers and online news publications. Jill lives in Iowa with her husband and four daughters. She joined The Defender in June 2025.

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DISQUS

1

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H**holisticpoet**

4 days ago

I for one would like to know exactly how they are identifying this so called virus as there is not one that has ever been isolated. They have never been proven to exist. Are they using the same fake PCR test they used to bogusly diagnose Covid19. I think that one fake pandemic is quite enough for the world to live through.

6

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Reply

R**RandyFaster**

→ holisticpoet

4 days ago

Have a look at my post above (and the link) for your answer.

0

0

Reply

W**Wojciech Langer**

→ holisticpoet

4 days ago

Nipah if it's real at all, has killed ten (10) people per year over the last 25 years. A more unlikely candidate for another fictional "pandemic" would be hard to find. Ignore.

0

0

Reply

**Britt Lind**

5 days ago

Viruses do not exist except as a lie to induce fear and sell vaccines.

6 0 Reply **R****RandyFaster** → Britt Lind

4 days ago



...from which they've had phenomenal success! I wonder how many will fall for it the next time around. Certainly, the ones still blocking proper oxygen intake with the "Face Diaper" will be first in line!

0 0 Reply **Z****Zoe**

4 days ago



They cannot have used the PCR as the 190 people they tested all came back negative. They would have all been false positives with the PCR test

4 0 Reply **D****DDR Dave** → Zoe

4 days ago



In order to design a test procedure to detect something you first need to have a known quantity of "something". So without "something", what do the terms positive and negative mean?

0 0 Reply **D****DDR Dave**

4 days ago



Writing articles about non-existent microbes only serves to undermine the other good work CHD is doing to protect children. Propagating fear and delusional thinking are the real threats.

2 0 Reply **D****DDR Dave**

4 days ago



"The virus most commonly spreads through contaminated food or direct contact. It can also pass from person to person through close contact with an infected individual or exposure to their bodily fluids." Would you please share any scientific evidence to support these claims?

Just eating food contaminated with poisons would be enough to cause illness. No need to invent stuff.

I highly recommend "Can You Catch A Cold?" which delves into 203 transmission studies, none of which support the contagion mechanism (except via negative thoughts, the nocebo effect). For many other diseases you might be interested in "What Really Makes You Ill" and "Virus Mania"

1 0 Reply 



Matt

4 days ago

I saw grants for developing a vaccine for the nipah virus. i don't remember which University got it, it was probably around 2021 when I saw it. But if I recall correctly, they were doing GoF research on it.

1 0 Reply 



DDR Dave

→ Matt

4 days ago

Gain of Fiction research sure pays well!

0 0 Reply 



Dean Jackson

4 days ago

We start by throwing light on the neglected subject regarding the shocking breach of medical ethics regarding safety protocols for the pre-testing of vaccines. It takes 5-10 years to complete Phase III trials to ensure that the human species isn't wiped out should a general-use vaccine's adverse effects prove deadly...

https://web.archive.org/web/20200501110007/https://www.ifpma.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/IFPMA-ComplexJourney-2019_FINAL.pdf

...thereby identifying the Satanist co-option of our institutions (who use the more numerous Marxists as pawns to implement their policies*) that knew the vaccines were deadly [if a blood vessel is pricked], otherwise no non-Satanist-Marxist entity would take a chance on the annihilation of humanity should the long-term adverse effects prove deadly. Oh yes, we're currently in Year 5 of what should be Phase III.

Firstly, when pressed under oath in court, medical science is compelled to admit there is no such thing as a virus.* Secondly, medical science tells us there are no vaccines for cold viruses, the coronavirus, and RSV, being a cold virus.** Thirdly, if a blood vessel is pricked receiving a jab, where the needle wasn't aspirated, that means, in the case of

THE COVID-19 vaccines . THE NANOPARTICLES CARRYING THE mRNA HAVE ENTERED THE

see more

0 0 Reply 

R [RandyFaster](#)

4 days ago

That's the first photo I've seen of a "dog" bat! I smell another Pandemic coming. I've been saying since 2020 that the "covid" PsyOps would never go away. I will present "Exhibit A" as proof: -- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases-outbreak-news/item/2025-DON572>

0 0 Reply 

D [Deborah Howard](#)

4 days ago

There was a reason God stated not to eat certain animals. There is also a reason these evil scientists take this as they say "gain of function research", to use for harm; not good. There is a reason God gave us a brain to use and to pray for discernment.

0 0 Reply 

R [RandyFaster](#)

→ Deborah Howard

4 days ago

"discernment"?

0 0 Reply 

D [DDR Dave](#)

→ Deborah Howard

4 days ago

The main religions originally proposed not eating ANY animals. Jesus the Nazarene and his brother James were nailed to a post for opposing animal sacrifice for money (as far as we know if some effort is made to correctly translate and interpret historical texts).

0 0 Reply 

D

[Deborah Howard](#) → DDR Dave

4 days ago

The Bible speaks on what Jews were to or were not to eat. That changed in the New Testament