

What is African Swine Flu?

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About African Swine Flu:

- African swine fever (ASF) is a highly **contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs**, whose mortality rate can reach 100%.
 - The virus belongs to **Asfarviridae family**.
- **Symptoms** : vomiting, Diarrhea, reddening or darkening of the skin, particularly ears and snout, gummed up eyes etc.
- African Swine Fever can be **spread through**:
 - Direct contact with infected pigs, faeces or body fluid
 - Indirect contact via fomites such as equipment, vehicles or people who work with pigs between pig farms with ineffective biosecurity.
 - Pigs eating infected pig meat or meat products.
 - Biological vectors – ticks of the species Ornithodoros.
- It is **endemic to sub-Saharan Africa** but has spread to many other regions of the world, including Asia and Europe.
- It is **not known to affect human beings**.

- There **is no cure or precaution available** for the infection and **no approved vaccine** So the only way to stop it spreading is by culling the animals.
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Q1) What is a virus?

A virus is an infectious microbe consisting of a segment of nucleic acid (either DNA or RNA) surrounded by a protein coat.

Source: [African Swine Fever scare: 700 pigs culled in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-african-swine-flu/>

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