

Cetacean morbillivirus

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Cetacean morbillivirus Latest News

Recently, scientists used drones to find a dangerous Cetacean morbillivirus among whales in the Arctic.

About Cetacean morbillivirus

- Cetacean morbillivirus (CeMV) refers to a **viral infection** affecting marine mammals, particularly cetaceans.
- It belongs to the **family Paramyxoviridae**, which affects **marine mammals such as dolphins, whales, and porpoises**.
- **Characteristics:** These viruses are enveloped, negative-sense **single-stranded RNA viruses**.
- **History:** Morbilliviruses were first identified in **marine mammals in 1987**.
- It has been responsible for numerous outbreaks across the world, especially in the North **Atlantic and the Mediterranean**.
- **Transmission:** It is **highly infectious** and spread by the respiratory route and direct contact. The virus is shed by infected animals in ocular and respiratory **secretions, urine, feces, and sloughed skin**.

- It **impacts the respiratory and neurological systems** of the marine mammals, and can lead to mass strandings and deaths.
- **Treatment:** There is **no treatment for morbillivirus** infections in marine mammals, only supportive care.

What are Cetaceans?

- The Cetacea are one of the most distinctive and highly **specialized orders of mammals**.
- Cetaceans (order Cetacea) are aquatic mammals, including **whales, dolphins, and porpoises**.
- Cetaceans are **entirely carnivorous** and are **distributed in all of the world's oceans**.

Source: IE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/cetacean-morbillivirus/>

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