

## Nipah

Nipah virus (NiV) is a highly pathogenic paramyxovirus and belongs to genus *Henipavirus*. Large fruit bats of *Pteropus* genus are the natural reservoir of NiV. Human Nipah virus (NiV) infection was first recognized in a large outbreak of 276 reported cases in peninsular Malaysia and Singapore from September 1998 through May 1999. Most patients had contact with sick presented primarily with encephalitis; 39% died.

In Bangladesh, Nipah virus (NiV) was first identified as the cause of an outbreak of encephalitis in 2001 in Meherpur district. In the last 10 years we have identified another eight Nipah outbreaks, all occurring between December and May. The Nipah outbreaks have been identified in Noagoan (2003), Rajbari (2004), Faridpur (2004), Tangail (2005), Thakurgaon (2007) Kushtia (2007), Manikgonj and Rajbari ( 2008), Faridpur ( 2010). Till January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 total of **152 human cases** of Nipah infection in Bangladesh were recognized; **113 (74%) died**. Beginning 2006, The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research in collaboration with ICDDR,B established Nipah surveillance in 10 district level Government hospitals of the country where Nipah outbreaks have been identified. Presently surveillance system is functioning in 6 hospitals. Through the surveillance system we have identified additional 39 cases. Outbreak investigations have identified two routes of transmission of Nipah virus from its natural reservoir into human: drinking of raw date palm sap contaminated with Nipah virus and close physical contact with Nipah infected case-patients.