

# Ivermectin

May 19, 2021

**In news:** The union health ministry has recommended Ivermectin in Covid-19 treatment.

## **About its rampant usage-**

- Ivermectin is an **antiparasitic**, but there is no discernible evidence of how effective it is in combating the COVID pandemic.
- The **drug was not mentioned in the Union health ministry's medical guidelines** in 2020.
- In 2021 beginning as the second wave hit, the guidelines underwent modifications and drugs like hydroxychloroquine and antibiotics like azithromycin were no longer recommended and Ivermectin was introduced.
- The **April 2021 directives** from the Centre recognised the low evidence of Ivermectin therapy and mentioned that it **"may be" used for those with mild cases and in home isolation.**
- Some state governments have advocated the use of Ivermectin for COVID-19 treatment and as a **prophylaxis (preventive medication).**
- However, agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency have warned against its use due to insufficient data.
- Currently, around 12 intervention trials focusing on the use of Ivermectin in treatment and prevention of COVID-19 are registered with **The Clinical Trials Registry, India** and are at various stages of completion.

## **About Ivermectin-**

- Ivermectin is FDA-approved antiparasitic used to treat many types of parasite infestations like **head lice,**

**scabies, river blindness (onchocerciasis), strongyloidiasis, trichuriasis, ascariasis, and lymphatic filariasis.**

- It was discovered in 1975 and came into medical use in 1981 and is on the **World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines.**
- In veterinary medicine, it is used to prevent and treat heartworm and acariasis, among other indications.
- It can be taken by mouth or applied to the skin for external infestations.

**Common side effects** include fever, itching, and skin rash when taken by mouth, and red eyes, dry skin, and burning skin when used topically for head lice