

Mucormycosis

May 12, 2021

In news: A rare fungal infection, known as mucormycosis is being detected among Covid-19 patients in some states.

About the disease-

- It is also called “black fungus”.
- It is **caused by a group of moulds known as mucormycetes** present naturally in the environment.
- **Symptoms** include pain and redness around eyes and/or nose, fever, headache, coughing, shortness of breath, bloody vomits, and altered mental status.
- **Warning signs** can include toothache, loosening of teeth, blurred or double vision with pain.
- **Sinuses or lungs** of such individuals get affected after they inhale fungal spores from the air.
- The disease often **manifests in the skin** and also affects **the brain**.
- **Vulnerable groups** include people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body’s ability to fight germs and sickness.
- These include those with diabetes, cancer, or those who have had an organ transplant.
- While it is treated with **antifungals**, mucormycosis may **eventually require surgery**.