

# Tomato flu

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**In news**— An outbreak of 'tomato flu' has triggered panic in Kerala's Kollam district after the mysterious disease was recently detected in 80 children, all under five years of age.

## What is tomato flu?

- Tomato flu is a **rare viral disease, which causes red-coloured rashes**, skin irritation and dehydration.
- The disease gets its name from the blisters or rashes it causes, which look like tomatoes.
- However, its cause is still unknown whether it is related to chikungunya, a viral fever or a dengue fever.
- **Symptoms of this flu include** rashes, skin irritation and dehydration.
- It **can also cause tiredness, joint pain, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea**, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, high fever, and body ache.
- In some cases, it may also change the colour of the legs and the hands.
- This flu is a **self-limiting one and there is no specific drug for this**.
- Like other cases of flu, tomato fever is also **contagious** and if someone is infected with this flu, they need to be kept in isolation as this could spread rapidly from one person to another.