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Human Metapneumovirus Infection

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Message from the Guest Editor

Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a clinically relevant single stranded RNA virus that belongs to the genus *Metapneumovirus* in the new virus family *Pneumoviridae*. Since its discovery in 2001, HMPV has been identified worldwide and it is considered to be one of the most significant causes of acute respiratory tract infection. The prevalence of HMPV infections is higher in infants and children than in adults. In fact, by the age of 5, almost all children have been exposed to HMPV. However, HMPV can also occur in adults of all ages, although increased severity of the disease is observed in the elderly and immunocompromised individuals. Despite the disease's prevalence, there is no available commercial vaccine or specific treatment against HMPV. Given the extensive impact on human health, further studies are needed that identify the cellular and molecular mechanisms responsible for HMPV-induced disease.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics. *Pathogens* is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

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