



# Why is Tomato Fever a cause of concern for children in India? Doctors recommend prevention as the only option to contain it

Tomato fever is a highly contagious disease that makes children more prone to contracting the flu. While there have been concerns over this rare infection, doctors advise prevention as the only option available to contain the disease.



Ashima Sharda Mahindra | Updated Aug 25, 2022 | 11:26 AM IST

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New Delhi: [Tomato](#) fever has been reported in India since May this year. The rising number of cases is causing an alarm since the [flu](#) is affecting children in the age group of 1-9 years.

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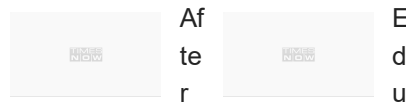
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coloured [rashes](#), irritation in the skin, dehydration, and high fever giving the disease its name from the [blisters](#) that look like tomatoes.

It is a form of hand, foot, and mouth disease ([HFMD](#)) that is rare in adults as their immune system is mostly strong enough. Doctors say that those adults suffering from comorbidities or are immunocompromised are highly at risk of contracting this ailment.

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### Preventing Tomato Flu

Since there is no specific drug available to treat Tomato Flu, according to doctors' supportive treatment is the mainstay of therapy. "Isolation, maintaining hydration with plenty of fluid intakes, antipyretics like paracetamol to combat fever and body aches should be considered. Also, prevention is the only option available to contain the disease," said Dr. [Tejo Pratap Oleti](#), Senior Consultant Neonatologist at Fernandez Hospital.

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Dr. [Oleti](#) also stressed the need to take the preventive measure seriously since the long-term sequelae due to the illness in children are not well studied till now. Proper hygiene protocols have to be followed to prevent the infection from spreading among children through the exchange of toys, clothes, food, or other items with other non-infected children.

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The Indian government also issued an advisory laid out to prevent the further spread of infection.

### How is Tomato Flu different from HFMD?

Dr. Oleti says Tomato Flu is a varied manifestation of HFMD in children. Tomato Flu, which was first reported in Kerala, has reported over 82 cases in children below five years, but India's latest case tally has officially crossed 100.

Blisters in Tomato fever are larger than those of HFMD and can be an aftermath of dengue or Chikungunya, says Dr. Oleti.

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For now, a report by The [Lancet](#) has confirmed that the infection is currently non-life-threatening and in an endemic state but due to the widespread COVID-19 pandemic, vigilant and proactive management is desirable to prevent further outbreaks.

*Disclaimer: Tips and suggestions mentioned in the article are for general information purposes only and should not be construed as professional medical advice. Always consult your doctor or a dietician before starting any fitness programme or making any changes to your diet.*

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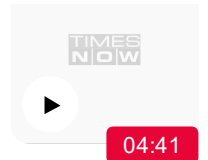
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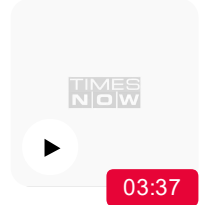
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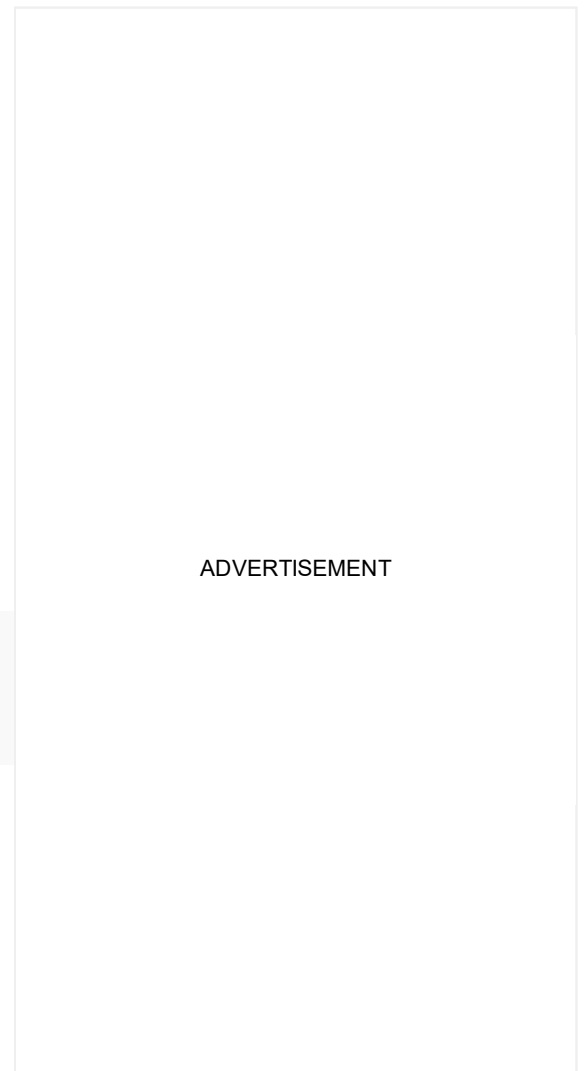
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