

## Body Parts Affected by Covid-19

### Why in news?

Covid-19 patients face symptoms which are very uncertain.

### What is the uncertainty?

- Fever, cough and difficulty in breathing are some of the most common symptoms of COVID-19.
- But, the disease has been known to affect different parts of the body.
- Further, it is still not clear why some individuals infected with the disease remain asymptomatic, while there are others who develop mild symptoms and some who get critically ill due to the disease.

### What are the conditions that may be associated with Covid-19?

- **Cytokine storm syndrome (CSS)** - Research suggested that the Covid-19 might induce cytokine storm in some patients.
- Cytokine storm is characterised by the overproduction of immune cells and cytokines themselves.
- Ideally, once the immune system is triggered after the body is infected by a pathogen, the immune cells will reach the site of infection or injury and start the repair.
- But in case of a CSS, the excess of immune cells start to damage the healthy tissue as well.
- If the clinical features of CSS are not identified on time, the syndrome can lead to multiple organ failure, sepsis and even death
- CSS is seen as a likely major cause of mortality in both the 1918-20 Spanish Flu, and the H1N1 (swine flu) and H5N1 (bird flu) outbreaks in recent years.
- Covid toe: The skin condition is characterised by purple, blue or red discolouration of the toes and sometimes even the fingers.
- It is also described as “chilblain-like lesions”.
- However, it is not yet clear if there is a direct relationship between this skin condition and Covid-19.
- **Multi-system inflammation in children** - Children have formed a very small subset of those infected with Covid-19.
- A study found that the children infected with the virus show milder symptoms, have a faster recovery and a better prognosis compared to adults.

- This rare illness causes inflammation of the blood vessels, which leads to low blood pressure.
- It affects the entire body as it causes a build-up of fluid in the lungs and other organs and the condition is similar to Kawasaki disease.
- [Kawasaki disease - It is an acute inflammatory disease of the blood vessels and occurs in children below the age of five.]
- **Neurological connection** - Some neurological manifestations reported by the JAMA Neurology study are dizziness, headache, impaired consciousness, acute cerebrovascular disease, loss of full control of body movements, seizures.
- Some manifestations were also reported in the peripheral nervous system, which include impairment in the sense of taste and smell.
- Further, some specialists had observed neurological symptoms in Covid-19 patients in Germany, France, Austria, Italy and Holland.
- **Bowel abnormalities** - The cause of such abnormalities and if they are directly related to Covid-19 is not exactly clear yet.
- Some possible explanations for the spectrum of bowel findings include direct viral infection and small vessel thrombosis.

**Source: The Indian Express**

