



Summer Flu: COVID-19 a Changing Regime

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Evolution is a continuous process for every living system as it leads to better survival and superiority in biological communities. In microorganisms, genetic drift and genetic shift play an important role in the evolution of novel strains [1].

Pandemics are rare, but they are there before the recent pandemic world has seen four major influenza virus like pandemics like Spanish influenza, Asian influenza, Hong Kong flu, and Novel influenza A virus or H1N1 pandemic [2]. In December 2019 a novel virus was reported in Wuhan, Hubei province of China which later was identified as coronavirus and its symptomatology was coined as COVID-19. It copied many of the clinical symptoms as reported for other flu-causing viruses like swine flu or severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Middle east respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), etc., and influenza A viruses [3].

Pathogens causing flu or flu-like symptoms have been reported for decades but some environmental factors like low temperature and humidity play a vital role in their survival, transmission, and reproduction [4]. Coronavirus remains viable on smooth surfaces for several days, facilitating its community transmission in subtropical countries. In India owing to higher population density and poor hygiene practices, coronavirus showed higher survival, transmission, and infection in the summer conditions of the year 2020 and 2021 respectively [5].

The ability of novel coronavirus to adapt under extreme environmental conditions of temperature and humidity is surprising and reflexes a changing regime for this novel viral strain. Needless to say, that COVID-19 may be coined as Summer Flu under the present Indian scenario. Nature has its own way to surprise, and this ongoing pandemic is still an enigma for many evolutionary processes.

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