



Cetacean Morbillivirus (CeMV) in the Arctic

Published On: 04-01-2026

A study published in *BMC Veterinary Research* (Dec 2025) confirmed the presence of **Cetacean morbillivirus** in whales above the Arctic Circle for the first time.

- **The Discovery Method:** Scientists used "**Drone Blow Sampling**"—hovering consumer drones with petri dishes over whale blowholes to collect respiratory droplets (breath).
- **Target Species:** Samples were taken from **Humpback, Sperm, and Fin whales** in the Northeast Atlantic (Norway, Iceland).
- **Key Findings:** The virus (related to human measles) was found in a sperm whale in poor health and humpback groups.
- **Ecological Significance:**
- **Pathogen Shift:** Traditionally found in warmer waters, its presence in the Arctic indicates that **climate change** and shifting migration patterns are expanding the range of deadly marine diseases.
- **Conservation Threat:** CeMV causes severe respiratory and neurological damage and has been the primary cause of **Mass Mortality Events (MMEs)** globally since 1987.