

**To: Local Health Departments, Healthcare Providers**  
**From: Lynn Sosa, MD, State Epidemiologist**  
**Subject: Hantavirus Update**  
**Date: May 11, 2026**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is closely monitoring the hantavirus outbreak related to the M/V Hondius cruise ship. The risk to Connecticut residents is extremely low. We are not aware at this time of any Connecticut residents being aboard this cruise ship or being exposed to illnesses associated with this outbreak. CDC is working with state and local public health departments and passengers who have returned to the United States on monitoring their health. This memo outlines the most current resources about this outbreak.

Hantaviruses are a family of viruses which can cause two types of disease: hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) or hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS). Both types of hantavirus disease can be deadly especially when seeking healthcare is delayed. There is no specific treatment for hantavirus. Hantavirus is spread primarily through contact with rodent urine, droppings and saliva or rarely, through a bite or scratch from an infected rodent. The type of hantavirus implicated in this outbreak is Andes virus. This hantavirus causes HPS and is not found in the US. Andes virus also spreads primarily through exposure to rodent urine, droppings or saliva and in limited situations, from person to person. Andes virus is the only hantavirus known to spread from person to person.

Hantavirus is an infrequent disease in the US and primarily occurs in the southwestern US. Since 1995 when hantavirus became a Nationally notifiable disease, Connecticut has only reported one case in 2014. We understand that this outbreak has generated concerns about exposure to hantavirus through rodents here in Connecticut. Concerned patients and residents can be advised of the following:

- The risk of being exposed to hantavirus in Connecticut is low.
- Avoid contact with rodent urine, droppings, saliva, and nesting materials.
- Seal holes and gaps in your home or garage to keep rodents out and clean up any easy-to-get food that might attract rodents.
- Place traps in and around your home to decrease rodent infestation and follow [CDC guidance](#) to safely clean up after rodents.

The latest resources about this outbreak and Andes virus can be found here:

- [2026 Multi-country Hantavirus Cluster Linked to Cruise Ship | HAN | CDC](#)
- [Hantavirus Toolkit](#)

Questions about hantavirus and this outbreak can be directed to the Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program at 860.509.7994.