

Hantavirus Pathogen: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Hantavirus Pathogen?

- Hantaviruses are group of viruses that can cause severe illness and death¹.
- Incubation period is 4 to 42 days after exposure; median of 18 days¹.
- Hantaviruses can cause hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) that affects the lungs and the case fatality rate can be approximately 38%¹.
 - In the US, hantavirus is most commonly spread to humans through contact with infected rodents.
 - The Andes variant of hantavirus is endemic to South America and is spread by rodents with the potential for person-to-person transmission.
- Symptoms of HPS include fatigue, fever, muscle aches, headaches, dizziness, chills, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/abdominal pain¹.

What is the current situation surrounding the Hantavirus?

- The World Health Organization (WHO) was notified on May 2, 2026 of a cluster of severe acute respiratory illness among cruise ship passengers and crew that was laboratory confirmed hantavirus, Andes virus strain. As of May 8, WHO reported 8 cases, including 3 deaths. The cruise ship departed from Argentina on April 1, 2026 and traveled across the South Atlantic Ocean.
(<https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00528.html>)

How does the Hantavirus spread?

- In the U.S., hantavirus is most commonly spread to humans through contact with infected rodents.
- Andes virus strain of hantavirus is the only strain with known person-to-person transmission via close, prolonged contact with a symptomatic individual. This includes time spent in enclosed spaces, exposure to the infected person's saliva, respiratory secretions, or other body fluids.

What are some CDC precautions and infection control measures?

- Environmental Exposure: Avoid exposure to rodents/rodent droppings, wet cleaning and disinfection practices with appropriate PPE use, use of an EPA registered disinfectant in accordance with CDC recommendations².
- Person-to-Person Exposure (specific to Andes virus): frequent hand washing, avoid close contact with exposed or infected individuals (avoid sharing drinks, eating utensils, food sharing)².

Does PDI offer disinfection solutions against Hantavirus?

- No. PDI products do not carry specific EPA-approved efficacy claims against Hantavirus. However, several PDI disinfectant wipes — including **Sani-Cloth® Prime**, **Super Sani-Cloth®**, **Sani-Cloth® Bleach**, **Sani-Cloth® AF3**, **Sani-HP1™**, and **Sani-Hypercide®** — have efficacy claims against enveloped viruses and should be used according to EPA-approved label directions and CDC guidance.

References

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00528.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/faq/index.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/about/andesvirus.html>

²https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/about/andesvirus.html#cdc_disease_basics_causes_risk_spread-how-it-spreads
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/rodent-control/clean-up.html>