

DPHHS HAN

Information Sheet



DATE

May 11, 2026

SUBJECT

2026 Multi-country Hantavirus Cluster Linked to Cruise Ship

CDC HAN SUMMARY

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to inform clinicians and health departments about a new cluster of hantavirus disease cases caused by infection with Andes virus. Hantavirus disease can cause severe illness and can be fatal. Clinicians should be aware of the potential for imported cases, although the risk of broad spread to the United States is considered extremely unlikely at this time. As a precaution, this Health Advisory summarizes CDC's recommendations for U.S. public health departments, clinical laboratories, and healthcare workers about hantavirus disease case identification, testing, and biosafety considerations in clinical laboratories.

BACKGROUND

See CDC HAN 00528.

INFORMATION

Montana DPHHS has not been notified by CDC of any Montana residents who have previously disembarked or are currently evacuating the cruise ship MV Hondius.

Hantavirus is endemic to Montana, and humans can be infected following contact with the feces, urine, or (rarely) saliva of infected deer mice (statewide) or white footed mice (eastern Montana). The strain of hantavirus that circulates in Montana is *Sin Nombre* virus (SNV), which is different than the Andes virus strain that infected humans aboard the cruise ship MV Hondius in the southern hemisphere. None of the hantaviruses currently identified and transmitted in North America, including SNV, have shown capacity for person-to-person transmission.

Since becoming a reportable disease in 1993, Montana has reported 50 cases of hantavirus, with an average of 0 – 2 reported cases per year, including numerous years with no known cases. So far this year, one case of hantavirus infection has been reported to Montana DPHHS. This person acquired the infection in Montana after contact with mouse droppings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

See CDC HAN 00528. Please use the following link to access the full CDC HAN:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00528.html>