

DPHHS HAN

Information Sheet



DATE

May 20, 2026

SUBJECT

2026 Hantavirus Outbreak: Testing for Potential Infection

SUMMARY

The Montana DPHHS recommends that patients who present for care with concern for Andes virus hantavirus infection should only be tested if:

- A patient has symptoms compatible with hantavirus infection, including fever and at least one additional hantavirus symptom; AND
- An exposure history that includes contact with a known Andes virus case, the M/V Hondius cruise ship, or travel to an endemic region.

If testing for Andes virus is indicated, providers must reach out to the Communicable Disease Epidemiology program for a consult and approval: 406-444-0273. Approved Andes virus testing may be ordered through the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) online portal, listed under "hantavirus". MTPHL does not have an in-house test that can detect Andes virus, but MTPHL will assist in directing the specimen to the CDC or a laboratory with appropriate testing capacity that is authorized to detect this strain.

As a reminder, the Sin Nombre strain of hantavirus is endemic to Montana, which is different than the Andes virus strain that infected humans aboard the cruise ship M/V Hondius. The MTPHL will continue to perform hantavirus testing on patients with symptoms compatible with hantavirus infection and in-state rodent exposure, as usual.

BACKGROUND

See [CDC HAN 00528](#), distributed May 8, 2026

INFORMATION

See [CDC HAN 00529](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

See [CDC HAN 00529](#)

CDC HAN FULL REPORT

Please use the following link to access the full CDC HAN:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00529.html>