



INFORMATION

What is hantavirus disease?

Hantaviruses comprise a large group of **zoonotic viruses** whose characteristics vary throughout the world. They are primarily **transmitted by wild rodents** through their urine, droppings, or saliva.

Risk areas

Hantaviruses are found worldwide, including in Europe and Asia, although they remain relatively uncommon on a global scale. **The Andes hantavirus is endemic to South America**, particularly in Argentina and Chile.

Transmission

Transmission is **rare and limited**.

- **Person-to-person transmission has only been documented for the Andes virus strain:** close and prolonged contact, or exposure to respiratory droplets and aerosols during the early symptomatic phase (fever) of an infected individual;
- Direct contact with the urine, droppings, or saliva (including bites) of infected animals;
- Indirect contact with surfaces contaminated by infected urine, droppings, or saliva.

Incubation period

1 to 6 weeks (median: 2 to 3 weeks).

Clinical presentation

- **Fever above 38.5 °C (101.3 °F);**
- **Severe fatigue;**
- **Headache;**
- **Muscle aches;**
- **Gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting);**
- **Cough and breathing difficulties.**

Severe cases may progress to:

- **A sudden-onset severe cardiopulmonary syndrome** with cardiorespiratory failure (American strains);
- **Hemorrhagic fever with renal failure** (European and Asian strains).

MANAGEMENT

- **Immediate home isolation upon symptom onset**, using an FFP2/N95 respirator or, if unavailable, a surgical mask.
- **Avoid all close interpersonal contact.**
- If you are **infected** or have been **in contact with an infected person**, contact the **Emergency Medical Service (SAMU - Dial 15)**, which will determine the appropriate medical referral and protective measures through the Epidemic and Biological Risk (REB) pathway.
- **Contact tracing** coordinated by regional health authorities (ARS).
- **Disinfection of surfaces** using **virucidal products compliant with EN 14476** standards or **0.5% sodium hypochlorite solution (Dakin's solution)**.
- **Alcohol-based hand rub** for more than **30 seconds**.
- Report as an **occupational accident/work-related exposure** when applicable.