



Hantavirus

(Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome)

What is Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome?

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, also called HPS, is a severe, sometimes fatal, respiratory disease in humans caused by hantaviruses. Anyone who comes in contact with rodents who carry hantavirus may be at risk for HPS.

The virus is found in the droppings, urine, and saliva of infected mice. The most common way that a person can get HPS is from breathing in the virus when it is aerosolized (stirred up into the air).

Not all rodents carry hantavirus. In Montana, the deer mouse is the reservoir for hantavirus.



Fast Facts:

Who is at risk?	Anyone who comes in contact with rodents that carry hantaviruses is at risk of developing HPS. Rodent infestation in and around the home is the primary risk for hantavirus exposure. People can also become infected after touching mouse droppings or nesting materials that contain the virus and then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.
What are the symptoms?	Symptoms of HPS may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Headaches • Muscle Aches • Stomach Problems • Dizziness • Chills <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Late Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lungs fill with fluid • Shortness of breath </div>
How can I reduce my risk of getting hantavirus pulmonary syndrome?	To reduce the likelihood of developing HPS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Seal up</u>: Seal up holes inside and outside the home to keep rodents out. • <u>Trap up</u>: Trap rodents around the home using snap traps to reduce the population • <u>Clean up</u>: Take precautions while cleaning rodent-infested areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Wear rubber or plastic gloves ◦ Thoroughly spray/soak area with a disinfectant or mixture of bleach and water to reduce dust ◦ Wipe/mop area with a sponge or paper towel ◦ Wash hands thoroughly ◦ Avoid sweeping or vacuuming up areas with rodent droppings
What is the treatment?	There is no specific treatment, cure, or vaccine for hantavirus infection. However, studies show that individuals who seek and receive medical care early in an intensive care unit may do better. If you have been around rodents and start to develop symptoms, see your doctor immediately.