



Public Health Advisory
05/12/2026

2026 Multi-country Andes Strain Hantavirus Outbreak Associated with Cruise Ship

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: On May 4, 2026, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed [a multi-country Andes strain \(ANDV\) of hantavirus cluster linked to cruise ship travel](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Surveillance (CDC) issued a [Health Alert Network](#) advisory regarding this evolving situation.

- As of May 12, 2026, 11 total cases have been identified, including 3 deaths, among the 149 passengers aboard the cruise ship.
- Six cases have been laboratory-confirmed as hantavirus infection with ANDV.
- Hantaviruses are zoonotic viruses primarily spread through exposure to infected urine, feces, or saliva of rodents. ANDV is a hantavirus notable for limited human to human transmission.
- There is no specific cure for hantavirus, and the case fatality rate can be up to 50% in cases with hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome (HPS). HPS is the primary clinical presentation of hantavirus seen in the Americas.
- As of May 11, 2026, there have been 18 persons repatriated to the U.S. from the cruise ship with one testing PCR positive for ANDV. All persons remain under isolation or quarantine.
- The Sin Nombre virus is the primary cause of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) in Nevada.
- There are no Clark County residents known to have exposures to the cluster at this time, and the risk of hantavirus infection in Clark County, including the ANDV strain, remains extremely low.

There is no specific treatment for hantavirus infections. Supportive care early in the course of illness, possibly including intensive care unit admission with intubation, fluid replacement, vasopressors, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), is critical to improving chances of recovery. As a result, **early consideration of hantavirus in the differential diagnosis is important for providing prompt supportive and diagnostic care as well as mitigating further transmission.**

SNHD strongly urges all healthcare providers to:

- 1) **Consider hantavirus in patients with compatible symptoms AND an appropriate epidemiologic exposure history:**
 - a) Symptoms occur 4 to 42 days after contact with the virus:
 - i) Early symptoms: Fever, fatigue, myalgias (usually involving large muscle groups), headache, nausea, chills, dizziness.
 - ii) Late symptoms which appear 4 to 10 days after the initial phase: Cough, shortness of breath, chest tightness.
 - b) Exposure in the 42 days before symptoms began, through one of the following means:
 - i) Direct physical contact, or extended time in enclosed spaces, with a symptomatic person with confirmed or suspected ANDV infection or with any objects contaminated by their body fluids.
 - ii) Exposure to an infected person's saliva, respiratory secretions, or other body fluids (e.g., kissing, sharing utensils, handling contaminated bedding).
 - iii) Experienced a breach in infection prevention and control precautions that resulted in potential contact with body fluids of a patient with suspected or confirmed ANDV infection.
- 2) **Implement infection control measures to prevent transmission:**
 - a) In healthcare settings, place patients in airborne isolation.
 - b) Use personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of gown, gloves, eye protection, and an N95 or higher-level respirator.
- 3) **Test for all appropriate differential diagnoses:**
 - a) Early symptoms are nonspecific and can be attributed to more common viral illnesses such as influenza and COVID-19. Identified exposure risk should not be reason to defer routine laboratory testing for other more common potential causes of illness.
 - b) If tested <72 hours from symptom onset, testing should be repeated once the patient has been symptomatic for more than 72 hours.
 - c) Assays for New World hantavirus IgM and IgG antibodies are available.

If hantavirus is suspected: Report immediately to the SNHD Division of Disease Surveillance & Control at the 24/7 surveillance line (702) 759-1300.

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Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action
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