



**Public Health UPDATE**  
**05/26/2026**

**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 an [Health Update](#) regarding this evolving situation.

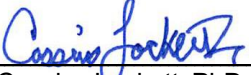
- As of May 15, 2026, WHO has reported 10 total cases, including 3 deaths, among the 149 passengers aboard the cruise ship.
- Eight cases have been laboratory-confirmed as hantavirus infection with ANDV.
- As of May 18, no confirmed cases of Andes virus associated with the outbreak on the cruise ship have been reported in the United States.
- **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 Andes virus infection patients who:**
  - a) Have symptoms compatible with hantavirus infection, AND
  - b) Were aboard the M/V Hondius cruise ship OR had direct contact with someone associated with the M/V Hondius Andes virus outbreak.
    - Contact the Southern Nevada Health District immediately to report a suspected Andes virus case and for assistance with diagnostic testing for Andes virus at 702-759-1300.
    - Know that assays designed to specifically detect Andes virus may not detect other New World hantaviruses endemic in the United States.
- 2) **Consider infection with other New World hantaviruses** in patients who:
  - a) Have symptoms compatible with hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) or non-HPS hantavirus infection, AND
  - b) Have a history of known or suspected exposure to sylvatic rodents or rodent excreta (e.g., urine, droppings, or nesting materials).
    - Test for non-Andes hantavirus in patients who have symptoms compatible with hantavirus infection and have a history of rodent exposure, but who are not associated with the M/V Hondius Andes virus outbreak.
    - Consult with CDC's Viral Special Pathogens Branch (VSPB) to discuss hantavirus diagnostic testing by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 and requesting VSPB's on-call epidemiologist. VSPB cannot accept specimens without prior consultation.
- 3) **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.
- 4) **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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