



PREVENTING HANTAVIRUS



Deer Mouse

- Have a mouse problem in your house or storage sheds?
- Have you found lots of mouse droppings or nesting material?

If you answered “Yes” to the above questions, you should take steps to protect yourself from Hantavirus.

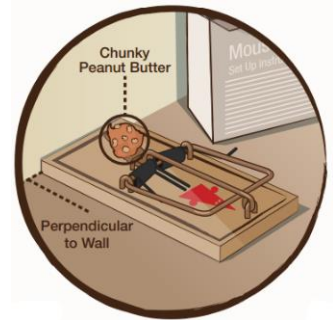
A HANTAVIRUS INFECTION CAN BE FATAL

- Most infections occur after a person breathes in air particles contaminated by deer mouse saliva, urine or droppings containing the virus.
- This can occur, for example, after sweeping or vacuuming areas with mouse infestations.
- Infected deer mice look the same as healthy ones.
- Assume that all deer mice and any mouse droppings are infected with Hantavirus.

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

Keep Mice Out

- Block openings that allow mice to enter a building—a mouse can squeeze through a 0.5 cm (1/4 inch) hole.
- Store food and garbage in containers with tight fitting lids.
- Use traps to reduce or eliminate mice or hire a pest control firm to routine pest management.
- Check for mouse droppings and nesting material before cleaning or doing other activities that may raise dust.
- Remove woodpiles, tires, abandoned cars or other nesting places for mice that are within 30 metres (100 feet) of the building.
- Keep grass cut around the foundation and in the yard.



Keep Your House Clean

- Clean up food spills and puddles of water.
- Put pet food and water away at night.
- Keep the buildings/sheds clear of clutter so that infestations are easier to spot and to reduce places to nest.

Cleaning Mouse-Infested Areas

- Air out the house or shed by opening doors and windows for at least 30 minutes.
 - If the contaminated area cannot be ventilated properly, hire a professional service that has the protective equipment and training to clean it safely.
- Wear rubber gloves, goggles, and a well-fitting N-95 mask.
- Use wet cleaning methods. DON'T use dry cleaning methods such as dusting, sweeping, vacuuming or air-hosing.
- Using a spray bottle, dampen surfaces and material contaminated with mouse droppings with a bleach solution (1 part bleach with 9 parts water), let sit for 10 minutes and remove droppings with a damp disposable cloth.
- Seal dirty cloths and contaminated material in a plastic bag and throw out with the regular garbage.
- After cleaning, wash gloves in hot soapy water; followed by a dip in (or spraying with) the bleach solution then after removing the gloves, wash your hands thoroughly.



In Areas with Only A Few Droppings

- The droppings should be wiped up with a damp paper towel, which can be sealed in a plastic bag and thrown in the household garbage.
- When done, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.