



PREVENTING HANTAVIRUS



- 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.

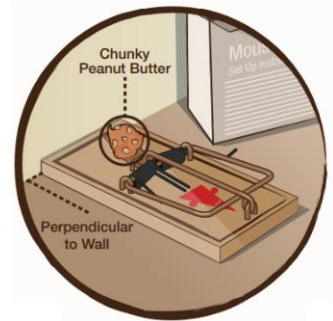
A HANTAVIRUS INFECTION CAN BE FATAL

- 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. If you catch a mouse, throw both the mouse and the trap in the garbage.
- 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.
- Wear rubber gloves, rubber boots, 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 and boots in hot soapy water; followed by a dip in (or spraying with) the bleach solution then after removing the gloves, wash your hands thoroughly.

STOP!

If the area cannot be ventilated or is heavily contaminated with mouse droppings and/or nesting material, hire a professional cleaning company that has the equipment and training to stay safe.

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.