CDC: Health Advisory: Hantavirus Disease Outbreak Among Passengers of the MV Hondius Ship

Minnesota Department of Health, Wed. May 13, 08:30 CDT 2026

Action Steps

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, and other health care facilities in your jurisdiction.
Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to physicians, infection preventionists, primary care clinicians, infectious disease doctors, and laboratorians.
Health care providers & laboratorians:

- Read the CDC: 2026 Multi-country Hantavirus Cluster Linked to Cruise Ship (www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00528.html) for situational awareness, including personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations.
- No changes in clinical or laboratory practices are recommended at this time.Situation summary

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), in coordination with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), is monitoring an outbreak of illness caused by Andes virus, a known species of hantavirus, among passengers and crew of the MV Hondius cruise ship.

- **We want to emphasize that the risk to the public remains very low.**
    - Hantaviruses are usually transmitted by exposure to droppings, urine and saliva of particular rodents. Andes virus is transmitted through exposure to particular rodents in South America and it is the only hantavirus known to be transmitted between people, although it is not readily transmitted between people. Person-to-person spread is usually limited to people who have close contact with an infected person with symptoms, such as household members or intimate partners, and it is most likely to occur early after symptoms begin.
- To date, MDH has not been notified of any Minnesotans that were on board this ship.
- MDH is currently monitoring one person who was not on the ship, but may have been exposed overseas to someone who had been on board the ship and later tested positive for hantavirus (Andes virus).
    - This person has returned to Minnesota and is not currently symptomatic.
    - MDH and associated Local Health Departments are conducting ongoing public health monitoring.

For more information

- WHO: Hantavirus cluster linked to cruise ship travel, Multi-country (www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2026-DON599)

- CDC: 2026 Multi-country Hantavirus Cluster Linked to Cruise Ship (www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00528.html)
    - CDC: About Andes Virus (www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/about/andesvirus.html)
    - CDC: Clinician Brief: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) (www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/hcp/clinical-overview/hps.html)
    - CDC: Appendix A: Type and Duration of Precautions Recommended for Selected Infections and Conditions (https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/isolation-precautions/appendix-a-type-duration.html#A)
- Hantavirus (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hantavirus/index.html)

A copy of this HAN is available at: MDH Health Alert Network (www.health.state.mn.us/han)
The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties