



# PUBLIC FACT SHEET

## HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME

### What is Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome?

This is a serious and often deadly disease of the lungs. It spread by rats and mice and found mostly in the western United States.

### How is Hantavirus spread?

People can become infected through;

- Contact with droppings from infected rats and mice
- Breathing in the virus particles from the urine, droppings or saliva from infected rats and mice
- Bites from infected rats or mice
- It is not usually spread from person to person

### What are possible symptoms?

- Fever (101-104 F)
- Headache
- Stomach pain
- Joint pain
- Lower back pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Shortness of breath.

### How is Hantavirus diagnosed?

Through blood tests.

### What is the treatment for Hantavirus?

There is no cure or vaccine for this disease. If symptoms appear, contact your doctor and be sure to tell him/her if you have had any contact with rats or mice

### How can it be prevented?

The virus, which can survive in the air and on surfaces, can be killed by most household cleaners, such as bleach or alcohol.

### For more information on Hantavirus:

Ottawa County Health Department  
[www.miOttawa.org](http://www.miOttawa.org)  
Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
(Enter CDC Website Here)  
Phone: (888) 246-2675