



DATE: May 15, 2026

TO: Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Local Health Departments, Pharmacists,
Emergency Services

FROM: New York State Department of Health

HEALTH ADVISORY:

Andes Strain Hantavirus Outbreak Associated with the Cruise Ship MV Hondius

- No immediate risk to New Yorkers -

- The New York State Department of Health is issuing this health advisory to update clinicians and local health departments about a cluster of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome cases, caused by the Andes virus, first reported to the World Health Organization on May 2, 2026, on a cruise ship, the MV Hondius.
- **The current risk of hantavirus infection in New York, particularly infection with the Andes virus, is extremely low.**
- As of 5/14/2026, 11 cases have been identified, including 3 deaths, among the 150 individuals on board the cruise ship.
- There are 3 New Yorkers among the identified contacts who were onboard the cruise ship.
 - All 3 New Yorkers remain asymptomatic and are currently undergoing assessment and monitoring at the National Quarantine Unit in Nebraska.
 - Should any contacts return to New York State, public health officials will work with involved localities and provide them with support to monitor quarantined individuals for illness.
 - Quarantine processes are subject to local health department laws and procedures.

- The situation is very fluid with information changing rapidly. The New York State Department of Health is monitoring the situation closely and actively coordinating with federal and local partners.

INFORMATION ABOUT HANTAVIRUS, INCLUDING ANDES VIRUS

- The hantavirus strain associated with the cruise ship outbreak is Andes virus. The natural reservoir for the Andes variant of hantavirus is the long-tailed pygmy rat, which is native to Argentina and Chile but not the United States.
- Hantaviruses in the US are different strains than the Andes virus. For these other strains in the US, humans acquire infection through exposure to rodent urine, droppings, or saliva. Transmission is not person-to-person.
- The Andes virus can spread from person to person via close contact, including through respiratory droplets, bodily fluids, and fomites. There is insufficient evidence of asymptomatic transmission. The Andes strain is the only one with evidence of person-to-person transmission.
- There are currently no reported cases of Andes virus disease in New York, or in United States residents.
- The incubation period for Andes virus is 4-42 days from exposure, with a median of 18 days.
- Treatment for hantavirus infection is supportive, possibly including extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).
- There is no hantavirus vaccine available.
- If you suspect hantavirus in your patients, please contact your local health department immediately. Testing for hantavirus should only be performed for patients with both clinically compatible illness AND at least one epidemiologic risk factor, including exposure to rodents and travel to a hantavirus-endemic region. Because the risk of hantavirus transmission in New York is extremely low, testing patients without these risk factors may lead to difficulty interpreting test results.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your local health department or the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at (518) 473-4439 or via email at bcdc@health.ny.gov.
- The New York State Department of Health website is being regularly updated with information and can be found here:
<https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hantavirus/>

- Updates from the World Health Organization regarding this outbreak can be viewed here: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2026-DON601>
- The CDC has a resource page for Andes virus that can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/about/andesvirus.html>