



# ZOONOTIC CONCERN

## hantavirus infection

**Cause:** Hantavirus

**Occurrence in animals:** wild rodents

**Source in animals:** urine, feces, respiratory secretions, and saliva

**Exposure:** inhalation of infectious aerosols

**Symptoms:**

- Animals:
  - asymptomatic
- Humans:
  - usually flu-like symptoms (fever, fatigue, muscle ache, headache)
  - could lead to respiratory failure and death

**Precautions:**

- Good personal hygiene:
  - ***WASH HANDS*** after handling animals and their environment
  - No eating, drinking, smoking, ... around animals
- Wear gloves and a face mask when working with wild rodents or in potentially contaminated areas
- If accidental exposure should occur, seek medical attention immediately
- Organism can persist for a few days in the environment

**Additional information about hantavirus can be found at:**

- <http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/CARE710.pdf>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm>
- <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/msds-ftss/msds74e.html>
- <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/hantavirus.pdf>