

**PURPOSE/APPLICATION**

To provide guidance on safely working in areas where there is a potential to be exposed to hantavirus due to encountering deer mice, their droppings or nesting material.

**PPE**

- Strike minimum requirements
- Disposable N95 respirator (light droppings)
- Half-face, reusable air purifying respirators with P-100 filters
- Full face respirator or supplied air (Heavy Droppings)
- Rubber boots
- Disposable protective clothing (Tyvek) and gloves (neoprene, nitrile or latex-free)
- Mono-goggles

**TRAINING**

- On the job instruction

**HAZARD SOURCES & CONCERNS**

- Personal health concerns



**GENERAL DO'S AND DON'TS**

**DO's**

- DO** Recognize the hazards. If you come across mice and droppings, review your HIAC and determine a plan to eliminate, control and protect
- DO** Treat all mice and droppings as potentially infected
- DO** Limit the amount of airborne dust when mice and droppings are present
- DO** Place/keep/store tools in a safe & secure place
- DO** Wear disposable coveralls, gloves, mono-goggles, respiratory protection, and rubber boots when cleaning up rodent contaminated areas
- DO** Wet contaminated areas including dead mice, droppings, and nests with a 1:10 solution of bleach and water; bleach kills hantavirus
- DO** Disinfect all reusable items such as rubber boots and mono-goggles by wet wiping with the bleach solution
- DO** Dispose of all contaminated disposable protective clothing by placing and sealing it in a plastic bag
- DO** Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water after removing gloves
- DO** Seek medical attention if you display symptoms of hantavirus after contacting rodents, droppings, or urine

**DON'Ts**

- DON'T** Disturb dust in potentially infected areas without wearing proper PPE
- DON'T** Come into contact with live deer mice; hantavirus can be spread if bitten by an infected mouse
- DON'T** Touch mucous membranes such as eyes, nose and mouth with contaminated hands or gloves that have contacted rodent urine, saliva, or droppings
- DON'T** Eat food that has been in a contaminated area

**IDENTIFICATION PICTOGRAM OF DEER MICE VS. HOUSE MOUSE**

<b>DEER MICE</b>	<b>HOUSE MICE</b>
A.k.a. "field mice" or "white-footed mice"	Scientific name: <i>Mus musculus</i>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reddish brown or gray with white underbelly and feet</li> <li>• Hairy tail that is darker on top and lighter on the bottom</li> <li>• Common carriers of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome</li> <li>• Often found in attics and basements</li> <li>• Hoards food near its nest</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid brown or gray in color</li> <li>• Nearly hairless tails</li> <li>• Not a known carrier of hantavirus, but still a health threat in other ways</li> <li>• Omnivorous, but often eats cereals and grains</li> <li>• Can cause significant structural damage by gnawing through walls and electrical wiring</li> </ul>

**HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME SYMPTOMS**

Symptoms appear 1 to 6 weeks after being exposed to hantavirus. Symptoms include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tiredness</li> <li>▪ Dizziness</li> <li>▪ Fever and chills</li> <li>▪ Muscle aches and headaches</li> <li>▪ Nausea and vomiting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stomach pain</li> <li>▪ Coughing</li> <li>▪ Shortness of breath</li> <li>▪ Severe difficulty breathing</li> </ul> |
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**PREVENTION**

The best way to reduce the risk of exposure to hantavirus is to limit the presence of mice and their droppings. This can be achieved by:

- Limit the presence of food at worksites and offices
- Store garbage in heavy plastic or metal containers with tight fitting lids
- Seal any holes in structures where mice may enter
- Set rodent traps

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