
SUBJECT: Andes Hantavirus – Situational Awareness
Date: May 11, 2026
Pages: 2 (plus attachment)
To: Primary Care, Hospitals, Emergency Departments
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

- **No known Andes hantavirus cases or contacts are currently in WDG.**
- **Contact WDGPH immediately if Andes hantavirus is suspected.**

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) is monitoring an international situation involving exposures to Andes hantavirus associated with the MV Hondius cruise ship. Nine cases have been reported to date, including three deaths. Three asymptomatic individuals associated with this cluster are currently isolating in Grey-Bruce and Peel Region with active public health monitoring.

There are currently no individuals connected with this cluster in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph region. WDGPH is actively monitoring the situation. Based on current evidence, the risk to the community remains low.

Clinical Information

Andes hantavirus is a South American hantavirus associated with hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS). Unlike most hantaviruses, limited person-to-person transmission has been documented. However, spread appears inefficient and generally requires prolonged close contact with symptomatic individuals.

The incubation period is generally four to 42 days. Early illness is non-specific and may include fever, myalgia, headache, malaise, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhea. Severe illness may progress rapidly to cough, dyspnea, pulmonary edema, respiratory failure, shock and cardiovascular collapse. Reported mortality for HPS is approximately 30 to 40 percent.

Management

Individuals associated with the MV Hondius cluster are known and are being followed by public health authorities. It is highly unlikely that an individual with Andes hantavirus would present unexpectedly to the hospital or to primary care without prior public health involvement.

For any scenario where there is concern about Andes hantavirus or connection to the MV Hondius cluster, immediately isolate the patient and contact WDGPH at:

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.: 1-800-265-7293, ext. 4752
After hours and holidays: 1-877-884-8653

Do not initiate testing or transport without consultation. As necessary, please refer to the attached IPAC guidance from Public Health Ontario.

WDGPH will continue to actively monitor this situation and provide updated guidance should the risk assessment change.

References:

1. Andes hantavirus outbreak in cruise ship [Internet]. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; 2026 May 11 [cited 2026 May 11]. Available from: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/infectious-disease-topics/hantavirus-infection/surveillance-and-updates/andes-hantavirus-outbreak>
2. Pathogen Safety Data Sheets: Infectious Substances – Hantavirus spp. [Internet]. Government of Canada; 2021 May 4 [cited 2026 May 11]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/laboratory-biosafety-biosecurity/pathogen-safety-data-sheets-risk-assessment/hantavirus.html>
3. About Hantavirus [Internet]. U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention; 2024 May 13 [cited 2026 May 11]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/about/index.html>
4. About Andes Virus [Internet]. U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention; 2026 May 9 [cited 2026 May 11]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/about/andesvirus.html>

For more information, please contact:

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