



# Understanding Hantavirus

*Yáát'ée'h. We encourage everyone to read this information about Hantavirus. We can keep the mice out of our homes. This is not complicated. Let's work together to help each other.*

- Jonathan Nez, President, Navajo Nation

## HOW DO PEOPLE GET HANTAVIRUS DISEASE?

People can get Hantavirus disease when they breathe in hantaviruses. This can happen when mouse droppings are stirred up into the air. People can get hantavirus disease when they touch a mouse, or mouse droppings, or nesting materials. People can also get Hantavirus disease from a mouse bite.



## HOW TO PREVENT HANTAVIRUS

Keep mice out of your home.  
Safely clean up mouse droppings and nests.

## HOW TO KEEP MICE OUT OF YOUR HOME

Prevention

Prevention

### 1 Cover your food

- Put food in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids.
- Clean up spilled food right away.
- Put pet food away after use.
- Do not leave pet-food or water bowls overnight.



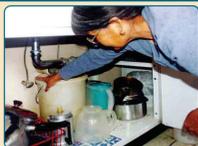
### 2 Set traps inside

- Use snap traps.
- Put peanut butter on the trap.
- Put traps where you saw mice or droppings.
- Do not use glue traps or sticky traps.



### 3 Fix holes inside

- Check doors for gaps.
- Look inside cabinets.
- Look around drain pipes.
- Use steel wool, caulk, or spray foam to fill holes.



### 4 Fix holes outside

- Check around doors.
- Check around windows.
- Check skirting on trailers.
- Check around pipes, vents, and siding.



### 5 Remove droppings

- Wear gloves.
- Spray droppings with bleach-water to kill Hantavirus.
- After 5 minutes, wipe up with paper towels. Throw towels in the trash.
- Wash gloves in bleach-water or soap. Then wash your hands with soap. You can also use hand sanitizer.



### 6 Remove dead mice

- Wear gloves.
- Spray the mouse or nest with bleach-water to kill Hantavirus.
- After 5 minutes, put the mouse and trap into a plastic bag.
- Put the bag in the trash.
- To use the same trap again, spray the trap with bleach-water.
- Wash gloves in bleach-water or soap. Then wash your hands with soap. Or you can also use hand sanitizer.



**CLEAN UP TIP:**  
DO NOT SWEEP UP OR VACUUM UP MOUSE DROPPINGS, URINE, OR NESTS. THIS COULD MAKE HANTAVIRUS GO INTO THE AIR, WHERE IT COULD BE BREATHED IN.

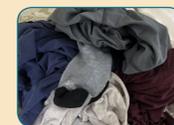
### 7 Sheds

- Before entering a shed or outbuilding, air it out for 30 minutes.
- Wear gloves.
- Mop floors or spray dirt floors with bleach water
- Wash gloves in bleach-water or soap. Then wash your hands with soap. You can also use hand sanitizer.



### 8 Clothes

- Mice sometimes leave droppings and urine on clothing.
- Wear gloves.
- Wash clothing in hot water and detergent. These will kill Hantavirus.
- If using a dryer, set it on High or hot. You can also dry in the sun.
- Wash gloves in bleach-water or soap. Then wash your hands with soap. Or you can also use hand sanitizer.



### 9 Books & papers

- Wear gloves.
- Leave books and papers outside in sunlight, away from mice, for several hours.
- Or wipe the books and papers with bleach-water. This will kill Hantavirus.



### 10 Old cars

- Look for nests, droppings, or mice under the hood and in the interior and trunk.
- Wear gloves.
- Spray droppings with bleach-water (1 part bleach and 9 parts water) to kill Hantavirus.
- After 5 minutes, wipe up with paper towels. Throw towels in the trash.
- Wash gloves in bleach-water or soap. Then wash your hands with soap. Or you can also use hand sanitizer.



#### How to make bleach-water:

- Use 1 part bleach and 9 parts water  
or
- 1-1/2 cups bleach in 1 gallon of water



Clean up

Clean up