



# Hantavirus

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**Hantavirus** is a rare but severe virus that spreads through the urine, droppings, and saliva of **rodents (mammals of the order Rodentia, such as rats)**, causing life-threatening illnesses like **Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS)** and **Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS)**.

- **Transmission:** Spread primarily through **aerosolization** of rodent waste, **direct contact**, or **rarely through bites**. **Human-to-human transmission is extremely rare**.
- **Symptoms:**
  - **Prodromal Phase (1-8 weeks after exposure):** **Flu-like symptoms** (fever, chills, muscle aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea).
  - **Severe Phase (HPS onset):** **Shortness of breath, coughing, chest tightness, fluid buildup in the lungs, and potential heart failure**.
- **High-Risk Groups:** **Farmers, construction workers, hikers, campers**, and those handling rodent-infested areas.
  - **Children under five, pregnant women, and immunocompromised individuals** should avoid contact with pet rodents.
- **Treatment:** No specific **antiviral treatment**, management includes **oxygen therapy and intensive care for severe cases**.
- **Prevention:** Keeping homes and workplaces rodent-free by sealing entry points, and wear protective gear when cleaning areas with rodent activity can significantly reduce the risk.

Read more: [HMPV Virus](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/hantavirus>