

COVID-19 vs. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome

COVID-19

- COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that was first detected in late 2019 and is present worldwide.
- It is caused by a new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).
- Although most healthy people will develop mild to moderate disease, up to 1 in 5 young adults with COVID-19 may require hospitalization.



Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS)

- HPS is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with hantaviruses.
- An average of 20-40 cases are reported in the U.S. each year, primarily in the west.
- Cases are reported year-round with a peak in the spring and summer months.

How Does the Virus Spread?

- COVID-19 is spread between people in close contact (within 6 ft).
- Respiratory droplets, produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, can land in mouths or noses of people nearby.
- Studies suggest COVID-19 may spread by people who are not showing symptoms.



- Hantavirus is spread by rodents. Infected rodents shed the virus in their saliva, urine, and droppings.
- People can get infected by breathing in air contaminated after fresh rodent waste or nesting materials are stirred up.
- HPS is NOT spread from person-to-person.

Who Is at Heightened Risk of Infection or Serious Complications?

Healthcare providers and family members caring for COVID-19 patients are more frequently exposed.

Residents of skilled nursing facilities or communal living centers with frequent contact with others.

Older adults and people with chronic underlying medical conditions – heart or lung disease or diabetes – seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications and dying.



Anyone who comes in contact with infected rodent droppings, urine, saliva, or nesting materials, this includes:

Anyone cleaning up after rodent infestations, or opening and cleaning closed-up buildings without proper protection.

Campers and hikers near areas infested with deer mice or other infected rodents.

Construction, utility, and pest control workers in rodent infested spaces.

What Are the Signs and Symptoms?

INCUBATION PERIOD

2 - 14 Days



7 - 60 Days

INCUBATION PERIOD

COMMON

Fever
Fatigue
Cough
Shortness of breath
Muscle pains

ADDITIONAL

Headache
Sore throat
Loss of smell
Runny nose
Bloody sputum
Vomiting and diarrhea

COMMON

Fever
Fatigue
Cough
Shortness of breath
Muscle pains

ADDITIONAL

Headache
Dizziness
Chills
Nausea
Vomiting and diarrhea
Abdominal pain

What Should You Do If You Are a Healthcare Provider and Suspect a Case?

- Reinforce PPE and isolate patient.
- Provide supplemental oxygen, as needed.
- Notify public health authorities, immediately.
- Consider early transfer to a facility capable of performing ventilation support and ECMO.
- Send specimens for SARS-CoV-2 testing (PCR)

- Provide supplemental oxygen as needed.
- Administer inotropes early for hypotension.
- Avoid fluid resuscitation.
- Consider performing the 5-point hantavirus screen.
- Notify public health authorities immediately.
- Consider early transfer to a facility capable of performing ventilation support and ECMO.
- Contact your state/local health department for diagnostic testing.