

# 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.