



Hantavirus in Montana: What You Need to Know

- **Deer mice** are the primary source responsible for transmitting hantavirus to humans in Montana.
- People become infected when they **breathe in the virus** after disturbing contaminated materials.
 - This can occur when:
 - people **vacuum** or **sweep** out garages or sheds contaminated with the virus
 - when an abandoned or undisturbed space, such as an attic or fire tower, is opened for the first time in a long time
 - when people hike or camp in areas infested with rodents
- Hantavirus infection can **progress to a serious, and sometimes fatal, condition** called Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS).
- **Signs and Symptoms:**
 - Hantavirus Infection
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Body Aches
 - Headaches
 - Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea
 - HPS (symptoms listed above as well as the following)
 - Coughing
 - Shortness of breath (similar to breathing through a pillow)

If you suspect that you have contracted hantavirus, consult with a healthcare provider immediately.