

VALENCIA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HANTAVIRUS PUBLIC INFORMATION UPDATE

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is a severe respiratory illness that can be deadly. It is caused by the Sin Nombre virus, one of a family of viruses that is found worldwide. It can be transmitted by infected rodents through urine, droppings, or saliva.

Humans can contract the disease when they breathe in aerosolized virus. HPS was first recognized in 1993 and has since been identified throughout the United States. Although rare, HPS is potentially deadly. Rodent control in and around the home remains the primary strategy for preventing Hantavirus infection

- As of March 26, 2007, a total of 465 cases of Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome had been reported in the United States, from 31 states.
- The mean age of confirmed case patients is 38 years (range: 10 to 83 years)
- The case fatality rate in the United States is 35%

There have been four reported cases of Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome in New Mexico in 2011. Three of these were fatal. Data compiled on Hantavirus cases in New Mexico can be view on our website.

If you have any questions regarding Hantavirus or other public health and environmental health issues or topics you can send us an e-mail through our “contact us” link or by phone at 866-2472.

Source:

New Mexico Department of Public Health (July, 2011). Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome Data, 2011.