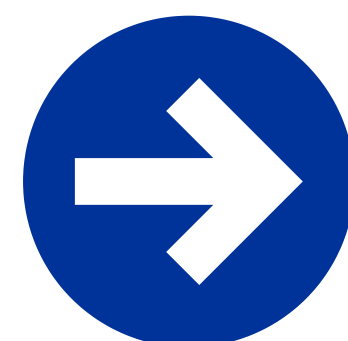


Hantavirus

Questions and answers



**Is there a risk for
transmission in
the community
beyond former
passengers and
crew?**

Based on the current evidence, the risk of wider community transmission **remains very low.**

Public health measures, including **monitoring, isolation** measures for suspected cases, **contact tracing** and infection prevention and control procedures, continue to be applied by all countries to **reduce the likelihood of further spread.**

Can former passengers and crew transmit the virus to family members at home?

The possibility of **limited** person-to-person transmission **cannot be fully excluded**, particularly through **close & prolonged contact**.

However, Andes hantavirus **does not spread easily** between people, and the **likelihood of transmission** to a household member **remains low**, if the public health instructions on self-quarantine **are followed**.

In case quarantine cannot be safely done at home, public health authorities **may organise quarantine** in a dedicated facility.

I have been in contact with a person who tested positive for Andes hantavirus. What do I need to do?

Contact your local public health authorities, which will be able to give you appropriate advice based on your level of risk.

Decisions on how **measures** are **implemented** remain the responsibility of **national authorities**, who may adapt the recommendations according to their national context, operational needs and public health systems and personal circumstances.

In some cases, countries are not implementing **home self-quarantine at all.**

If you are asked to **self-quarantine** at home, the recommendations include **staying at home** according to local guidance, **avoiding visitors**, and **keeping your distance** from others in your household, using **separate items and spaces** where possible.

Monitor yourself daily for **symptoms** such as **fever** ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$), **chills**, **fatigue**, **muscle aches**, **headache**, **abdominal pain**, **nausea**, and **respiratory** issues.

Contact public health authorities **if you feel unwell**, as advised in your country.

Maintain **good hygiene** - **wash your hands** often, regularly **clean surfaces** you've touched with household **disinfectants** (diluted bleach 1:10 or products with 70% alcohol), and **wear a mask** if you need to be **near others**.

Wash your clothes, towels, and bedding separately from others, but you can keep using the **same washing machine** you regularly use.

If for any reason you **cannot safely quarantine at home**, your local public health team will guide you to an appropriate **quarantine facility** and provide you with any information you need.

What hygiene and waste measures should I follow during self-quarantine?

Put your waste (including **tissues, masks, or anything used when coughing or sneezing**) in a **regular trash bag, close it well**, and throw it away with normal household waste.

If you **feel sick**, handle items that touched your body or body fluids (including disposable cleaning tissues) carefully and **keep them sealed before disposal**.

Always **wash your hands** after handling waste and try **not to share bins** without cleaning them regularly with **household disinfectants** (diluted bleach 1:10 or products with 70% alcohol).

How do I monitor my health during self-quarantine, and when should I seek help?

During **self-quarantine**, you should monitor for symptoms such as **fever** ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$), **chills**, **fatigue**, **muscle aches**, **headache**, **abdominal pain**, **nausea**, **vomiting**, **diarrhoea**, and **breathing difficulties**.

These symptoms typically appear within **two to four weeks** of infection, though cases have been reported where they occur up to **42 days after exposure**.

Should **any** of these develop, **seek immediate medical advice** or contact your **public health authority** for **guidance** and follow-up.

How and when can we rule out that a person is no longer infectious?

In most cases, there is an incubation period of approximately **two to four weeks**. But longer incubation periods (up to **42 days**) have been reported, hence the advice for quarantine for **six weeks**.

If no symptoms develop during this time, a contact is **no longer at risk of developing illness**. If **symptoms develop**, a person is infectious from the **day of onset of symptoms until recovery**.

The decision on when a person is **no longer infectious** is based on **symptoms, clinical recovery and testing** rather than a **single fixed rule**.

**Find daily ECDC updates
on the Andes hantavirus
outbreak page:**

bit.ly/ECDCHantavirus

Daily-updated Q&A:

bit.ly/ECDCHantavirusQA