



### **Hantavirus Safety and Awareness!**

Hantaviruses are transmitted to humans from the dried droppings, urine, or saliva of mice and rats. The disease begins as a flu-like illness characterized by fever, chills, and muscle aches, but it can rapidly progress to a life-threatening condition marked by respiratory failure as the lungs fill with fluid. Animal laboratory workers and persons working in infested buildings are at increased risk to this disease, particularly during dusty clean-up activities.

- Eliminate or minimize contact with rodents in your home, workplace, or campsite. If rodents can't find a home within your home (or workplace, campsite Etc.), then you'll be less likely to encounter them.
  - Seal up holes and gaps in your home or garage.
  - Place traps in and around your home to decrease rodent infestation.
  - Clean up any open / easy-to-get food.
- If you do have to remove rodent droppings;
  - DO NOT SWEEP OR DUST DROPPINGS if dry.
  - ALWAYS wet/spray them with a water + bleach and let the water soak in for 5 mins.
    - The bleach will help to kill viruses.
    - Wetting the droppings will keep any airborne contaminants wet, down, and out of the lungs.
  - Wear a face mask to cover your nose and mouth.

Many of the winter buildings on the Homewood, West Shore Café, and/or Marina have a seasonal use allowing rodents the opportunities to make homes within our buildings when we are not using them. If you do notice rodent droppings indoors, please alert your supervisor/manager so that the issue can be addressed before infestation.

Avoid contact with rodent droppings whenever possible, if it is not possible, try to avoid inhaling air that could be infected with Hantaviruses, and encourage airflow in those spaces whenever possible.