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Published Date 24-DEC-2002

Subject PRO/AH/EDR> Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - Canada (Alberta)

HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME - CANADA (ALBERTA)

A ProMED-mail post

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<<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Tue 24 Dec 2002

From: Pablo Nart <p.nart@virgin.net>

Source: The Calgary Herald, Mon 23 Dec 2002 [edited]

<<http://www.canada.com/search/story.aspx?id=fb3e0231-704c-4787-9a84-865cab50654a>>

Alberta: New Cases of **Hantavirus** Infection Reported

Albertans are being cautioned to avoid mouse droppings or urine after 2 cases of **hantavirus** infection were reported to provincial officials last week. Dr. Karen Grimsrud, Alberta's deputy provincial health officer, said **hantavirus** is a potentially fatal infection spread by rodents in their droppings or urine. "Albertans should be aware they need to take special care when working or playing in locations that may expose them to rodents, especially mice, that may carry the **hantavirus**," said Grimsrud. "There are likely infected mice in all regions of Alberta."

This year 4 cases of the disease have been confirmed in the province. Since

1989, there have been 27 confirmed cases of the disease in Alberta, with 8 deaths reported. "**Hantavirus** infection is rare," said Grimsrud, "and only affects a small portion of people who come into contact with mouse droppings. The risk of contracting the infection can be reduced even further by exercising caution." Contact with the virus can come, for instance, during sweeping to clean up mouse droppings in a barn or garage or washing the area with bare hands. A mask is recommended to prevent breathing dust containing mouse droppings, and rubber gloves are urged when washing the area with disinfectant.

The only confirmed carrier of the disease is the deer mouse, but since it's possible that other rodents could carry the virus, all of them should be treated as potential carriers. If a person is infected, the disease usually appears in one or 2 weeks, but it can take up to 6 weeks to appear. Symptoms resemble severe influenza, with a high fever, body aches, chills and troubled breathing. Anyone who develops difficulty breathing and has been in an area contaminated by rodents should see a doctor immediately.

[Byline: Mario Toneguzzi]

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[Several hantaviruses have been recorded in Canada: Prospect Hill virus, Bloodland lake virus, Topografov virus, Sin Nombre virus, New York virus, El Moro canyon virus, Blue river virus; all associated with different species of rodents. Of these viruses only Sin Nombre virus and New York virus are etiologic agents of **hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome. Unlike the other Canadian hantaviruses, these 2 are maintained in rodents of the family Muridae, subfamily Sigmodontinae. The principal reservoir of Sin Nombre virus is the deer mouse (Peromyscus maniculatus), and that of New York virus the white-footed mouse (Peromyscus leucopus). It seems likely, therefore, that Sin Nombre virus is the virus responsible for the cases of **hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome in Alberta during 2002. - Mod.CP]

[see also:

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Arizona)	20020607.4429
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Colorado)	20020605.4411
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Nebraska)	20020702.4650

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Nebraska) (03) [20020918.5349](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Texas) [20020512.4180](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Texas) (02) [20020515.4220](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Utah) [20020505.4105](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Utah) (02) [20020508.4135](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Utah) (03) [20020609.4446](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Utah) (04) [20020628.4626](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome update 2002 - USA (01) [20020630.4641](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome update 2002 - USA (02) [20020718.4794](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome update 2002 - USA (03) [20020809.5011](#)

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Hantavirus pulm. synd. - Canada (Alberta) [20010106.0049](#)
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