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**Subject** PRO/AH/EDR> Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Nebraska) (03)

HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME - USA (NEBRASKA) (03)  
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A ProMED-mail post  
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Date: Wed 18 Sep 2002  
From: ProMED-mail <[promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org)>  
Source: Lincoln Journal Star, AP report, Wed 18 Sep 2002 [edited]  
<[http://www.journalstar.com/latest\\_reg.php?story\\_id=24223](http://www.journalstar.com/latest_reg.php?story_id=24223)>

A rural Grant man has become the state's fourth person to test positive for the potentially deadly hantavirus [\_Sin Nombre virus\_]. [A 37-year-old male], went to Perkins County Hospital on 31 Aug 2002 with what he thought were flu symptoms. "It felt like I had the flu, but I didn't have an upset stomach, just some indigestion with it and I couldn't seem to get comfortable," Searcey told The North Platte Telegraph. [He] was taken by ambulance to Scottsbluff, where he was admitted to the intensive care unit. He had a short stay there, improving enough to go home 4 Sep 2002; a day before tests came back positive for hantavirus.

Hantavirus is contracted through breathing dust or [by contact with materials] contaminated with the dried urine, feces, or saliva of rodents. [He] had been trapping live mice before he became ill, he said. [He] credits a strong immune system, general good health, and quick-thinking physicians for his rapid recovery. He said he will no longer use traps for mice.

[A 30-year-old male] of Lyman became the first person in to die from the disease on 13 Jun 2002. [His] family believes he contracted the disease at the Scottsbluff rail yard where he worked, and state health officials have said that is a strong possibility. Hantavirus was virtually unheard of until an outbreak of an unexplained pulmonary illness occurred in May 1993 in the Four Corners area, where New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah meet. Other Nebraska cases include those of [a 41-year-old male], of Champion, who was hospitalized in Kearney from 24 Jun 2002 to 14 Jul 2002 and [another male, age not specified] of Benkleman, who was diagnosed with the first known case of hantavirus in Nebraska in 1998. Both recovered.

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{see also:

- Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Nebraska) [20020702.4650](#)
- Hantavirus pulm. syndr. - USA (Nebraska): correction [20020704.4666](#)
- 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](#)
- Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Nebraska) [20020702.4650](#)

2000

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- Hantavirus pulm. synd. - USA-wide update [20000604.0893](#)

1999

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- Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Nebraska) 19991024.19

1998

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- Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA: Update 30 Sep [19981001.1953](#)]

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