

## Protect Your Home

### Identify Signs of Wild Mouse Activity

- Live or dead mice
- Nests
- Droppings and urine stains
- Holes and gnaw marks



### Remove Habitat and Attractants

- Remove uneaten pet food daily
- Keep garbage in tightly sealed containers and empty weekly
- Cut grass, weeds and bushes within 100 feet around buildings
- Raise wood piles at least 1 foot off the ground



### Block Entry Points

- Seal all holes that are large enough for mice to squeeze through (dime sized or larger) with caulk or expanding foam
- Repair openings using 1/4 inch 18-22 gauge wire mesh

### Trap

- Use spring-loaded "snap" traps along baseboards
- Place mouse traps in areas where mice are entering the home
- Wear gloves and masks when disposing of rodents
- Do not use glue traps or live traps



## TOP TIPS!

- 1 Seal up entry points
- 2 Remove things that attract mice
- 3 Air out buildings before entering
- 4 Use the wet cleaning method



## Learn More!



Learn more about  
hantavirus at  
**SDVector.com**

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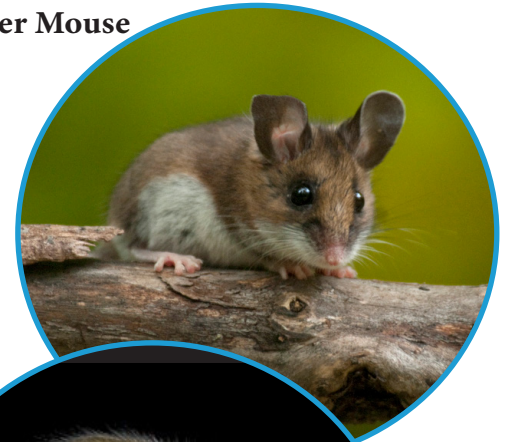
County of San Diego  
Department of Environmental Health and Quality  
**Vector Control Program**  
(858) 694-2888 | [vector@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:vector@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
5570 Overland Ave., Suite 102,  
San Diego CA 92123

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# Hantavirus

Reduce your risk of hantavirus exposure!

Deer Mouse



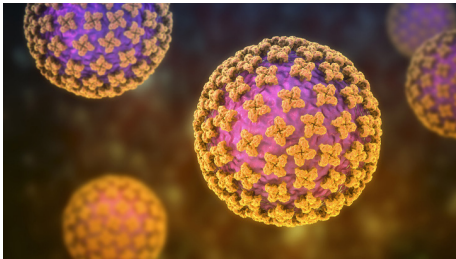
California Mouse



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
Environmental Health and Quality  
**Vector Control Program**

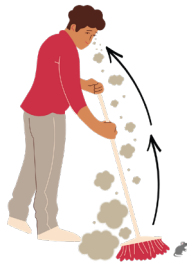
## What Is Hantavirus?

Hantavirus is carried by certain wild rodents. Some hantaviruses can cause severe lung disease (Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome). About 35-50% of people diagnosed with hantavirus in California have died.



## How Do You Get Hantavirus?

People can get sick when tiny particles of rodent droppings or urine become airborne and are inhaled. This can happen when sweeping up or vacuuming wild mouse droppings. Most hantaviruses are not spread from person to person.



## The Vector

In California, the deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) is the main carrier of hantavirus called Sin Nombre virus.

Infected deer mice appear normal and healthy. House mice, the most common mice in homes, do not carry hantavirus.



## Are You At Risk?

People who work, play, or live near wild rodents can be at a higher risk. Activities that can put people at risk include:

- Entering sheds, cabins, barns, or other buildings where wild mice are living.
- Cleaning or working in a shed or cabin that has been closed or sealed.
- Sweeping or using air blowers indoors.
- Handling live or dead wild mice.
- Cleaning up mouse urine, droppings and nests without a face mask.



## Symptoms

The first symptoms usually develop 1-8 weeks after exposure to hantavirus.

- Severe muscle aches
- Chills, fever or fatigue
- Headache or dizziness
- Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain
- Difficulty breathing or coughing



If you think you have been exposed, contact your doctor immediately.

## Prevent Hantavirus

Open windows and doors of a potentially contaminated room to let it air out for at least 2 hours before entering. **Do not** vacuum, sweep or dust as this could cause the virus to become airborne. Instead you should:

### Use A Wet Cleaning Method

1. Wear personal protection like latex or rubber gloves, a face mask and eye protection.



2. Spray contaminated items and surfaces with bleach and water solution (9 parts water to 1 part bleach). Let soak for 15 minutes.



3. Discard used paper towels into plastic trash bag. Rinse gloves in bleach solution and discard in plastic trash bag.



4. Tie the trash bag and place it into a second trash bag. Tie off the second trash bag and place in the trash can outside. Wash hands with soap and water.

