

## SITUATION

- Public health agencies are closely monitoring an outbreak of [hantavirus](#) (specifically the Andes virus strain) linked to an international cruise vessel, the MV Hondius.
- Regionally, three individuals are currently under observation at the University of Kansas Medical Center following a high-risk exposure.
- As part of the standard response, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services [shared](#) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [health advisory](#) to ensure clinicians and public health officials are aware of recommended evaluation and response measures.
- Risk to the public remains extremely low.

## BACKGROUND

- **Pathogen Overview:** The Andes virus strain identified in this outbreak is unique; unlike most hantaviruses, which are only spread by rodents, this strain can, in rare cases, be transmitted between people through close, prolonged contact.
- **Individuals Under Observation in Kansas:** The three individuals under observation at the University of Kansas Medical Center were *not* passengers on the cruise ship. Their exposure occurred on an international flight with a passenger who later tested positive for the virus.
- **Repatriation and Biocontainment:** A small group of American passengers were safely repatriated to a specialized National Quarantine Unit in Nebraska where they are being assessed for exposure risk, and appropriate monitoring measures are being coordinated. One individual who was initially admitted to the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit has been medically cleared to move to the quarantine unit. A symptomatic individual is receiving care in the Emory University Hospital Biocontainment Unit while another is undergoing evaluation and monitoring.

## ASSESSMENT

- **Monitoring**
  - Currently, there are no confirmed cases or known exposures in Missouri. Should a case or known exposure (on the vessel or elsewhere) be identified in a Missouri resident, DHSS will work with local health departments to monitor those residents.
  - There are currently no confirmed cases in Kansas. The three individuals at the University of Kansas Medical Center are asymptomatic.
  - Health officials have shared individuals are not considered infectious to others unless they are actively exhibiting symptoms.
- **Provider Awareness:** Distribution of the health advisory supports clinician readiness to recognize early symptoms and coordinate appropriate testing and care.

- **Containment:** The virus does not spread easily in a community setting, and the current isolated monitoring of travelers works to “break the chain” of potential transmission.

### RECOMENDATIONS

- **Clinical Action:**
  - Ensure triage protocols include thorough travel screening, specifically querying recent travel to South America, Antarctica or related international flights.
  - Maintain standard contact and droplet precautions for any Persons Under Investigation while coordinating with state health departments for further testing guidance.
- **Information for the Public:** The public should continue their normal daily activities. No special health precautions or changes in travel within the U.S. are necessary.
- **Understand the Health Advisory:** Recognize that these health alerts are a sign of a high-functioning public health system, not an indication of a widespread threat.
- **Ongoing Monitoring and Future Updates:** The Missouri Hospital Association is monitoring the situation and will provide updates should there be significant changes in the situation.

### RESOURCES

- CDC Health Advisory: [2026 Multi-country Hantavirus Cluster Linked to Cruise Ship](#)
- CDC: [Hantavirus: Current Situation](#)
- Region VII Disaster Health Response Ecosystem: [Andes virus \(Hantavirus\) Outbreak \(2026\)](#)

MHA is prepared to work proactively with member organizations to develop strategies that will prevent risk to patients. Should you have additional information to share or have questions please contact Keri Barclay, Manager of Clinical Preparedness at [kbarclay@mohospitals.org](mailto:kbarclay@mohospitals.org), or Kara Amann, Director of Hospital Preparedness Programs at [kamann@mohospitals.org](mailto:kamann@mohospitals.org).