

# LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
<b>HANTAVIRUS INFECTION</b>	<b><i>Hantavirus species</i></b>
<b>PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION</b>	
<b>KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read about Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome in the CD Manual.</li> <li>• See the case definition for Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome in the CD Manual.</li> <li>• Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19<sup>th</sup> ed., page 269 and pages 273 - 274.</li> <li>• Print and review reporting forms:               <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Hantavirus (DHHS/EPI #67)</i></p> </li> </ul>
<b>CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION</b>	
<b>COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, chest x-ray(s), other lab report(s), and discharge summary).</li> <li>• Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition.</li> <li>• Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition.</li> </ul>
<b>REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease.</li> <li>• Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied.</li> <li>• Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated.</li> </ul>
<b>APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.</li> </ul>
<b>IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES</b>	
<b>ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review clinical documentation and interview patient or other knowledgeable person regarding travel history and potential source(s) of exposure:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ rodent excreta</li> <li>○ trapping rodents</li> </ul> </li> <li>• HPS is very rare in NC and the Eastern United States. Most cases are associated with exposure to rodent excreta in the Western United States.</li> <li>• Investigating source of exposure may include site visit to case's home or place of employment (pet store, laboratory using rodents, farms) to assess possibility of exposure to rodent excreta.</li> </ul>

<p><b>IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the CDC website <a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a> to teach at risk people about the disease.</li> <li>• CD nurses should work with their environmental health specialist and other public health partners to evaluate the environmental risk, identify contaminated areas and the need for personal protective equipment, and to restrict access to contaminated areas such as residence and barns.</li> <li>• Measures to prevent and control rodent infestation may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sealing-up openings inside and outside of the home to prevent rodent entry</li> <li>○ trapping rodents around the home to decrease rodent population</li> <li>○ eliminating the availability of rodent food sources</li> <li>○ cleaning-up potential rodent nesting areas</li> <li>○ use of personal protective equipment when cleaning areas contaminated by rodent feces</li> <li>○ in areas grossly contaminated with rodent feces, it is advisable to contact a professional for cleaning</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>REPORTING INVESTIGATION</b></p>	
<p><b>REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered.</li> <li>• Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CASE FINDING</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms of illness.</li> <li>• Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b></p>	
<p><b>PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although person-to-person transmission is rare, universal precautions are recommended when treating individuals with Hantavirus infection.</li> </ul>