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To: Provider Network
From: IEHP – Provider Communication
Date: May 13, 2026
Subject: **Andes Hantavirus Protocol**

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), in coordination with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), is monitoring an outbreak of illness caused by Andes virus, a known species of hantavirus, among passengers and crew of the MV Hondius cruise ship.

CDPH will notify California local health departments of any additional returned or repatriated passengers in their jurisdictions when this information becomes available.

Currently, CDC and CDPH assess the risk to the general public as extremely low.

Key points

- ✓ Andes virus is a type of hantavirus that can cause a severe respiratory disease in people, called Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS).
- ✓ The virus can spread through contact with rodents, by touching an object with the virus on it, or, rarely, through contact with a sick person who has the virus.
- ✓ Early symptoms can look like the flu.
- ✓ Providers are reminded that suspect hantavirus cases should be **immediately** reported to the local health jurisdiction where the patient resides, which can help coordinate appropriate testing and provide additional guidance.
 - Testing for Andes virus in a returning cruise ship passenger and/or their close contacts should only be performed in coordination with the local health department, with CDPH involvement.
 - RUHS – Disease Control - Phone: (951) 358-5107
 - SB Country Public Health - Phone: 909) 387-9146

If you have any questions, please contact the IEHP Provider Call Center at (909) 890-2054, (866) 223-4347 or email ProviderServices@iehp.org

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