

Hantavirus testing guide for Utah clinicians

Hantavirus is a [reportable disease](#) in Utah and requires laboratory confirmation. Currently, the Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL) does not perform hantavirus testing in-house. Testing must be coordinated through the following channels:

- 1) **Quest Diagnostics:** Providers may order serology testing directly.
Note: Any positive serology result obtained through a private lab must be confirmed by the CDC or an authorized state public health laboratory.
- 2) **The CDC:** Serology testing is available for pre-approved serum specimens. CDC confirmation is definitive; no further testing is required if approved. Please follow the specific instructions below for CDC requests.

Clinical evaluation and prerequisites

Clinicians should rule out more common respiratory illnesses before requesting hantavirus testing. Testing should only be pursued if the following criteria are met:

1. **Known exposure:** Contact with deer mice (including fresh droppings, urine, or bedding) 1–2 weeks prior to symptom onset.
2. **Clinical presentation:** Fever, worsening respiratory symptoms
3. **Differential diagnosis:** No other likely etiology (influenza, COVID-19, or bacterial pneumonia).

How to request a test through the CDC

The CDC **will not** accept specimens without prior consultation and pre-approval. To initiate the process:

1. **Submit clinical history:** Provide the patient clinical and exposure information (**See Appendix 1**) to the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) via one of the following methods:

- **Secure email:** onehealth@utah.gov
- **Secure fax:** 801-538-9923
- **Phone:** Call the One Health epidemiologist at 801-538-6191 to discuss the case.

2. **Submit specimen:** Send the specimen and a completed [Infectious Disease Test Request Form](#) to UPHL (see submission guidelines below)

The One Health epidemiologist will coordinate with the CDC. If approved, UPHL will forward the specimen to the CDC Viral Special Pathogens Diagnostic Laboratory. **Incomplete information will delay approval and results.**

- **Turnaround time:** Approximately 10 business days.

Guidelines for submitting specimens

Ship specimens to UPHL for forwarding to the CDC.

Shipping address

UTAH PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
4431 SOUTH 2700 WEST
TAYLORSVILLE, UTAH 84129

Phone: 801-965-2400 | **Fax:** 801-536-0473

Labeling requirements:

- Patient's name or ID number
- Specimen ID number
- Date of collection

All specimens **must be accompanied by** the [infectious disease test request form](#).

Specimen requirements:

- Type: Serum (red top tube or serum separator)
- Minimum volume: 4 mL
- **Recommended method:** Ship sample frozen on ice packs within 30 days of collection.
 - Alternative method: Keep specimens refrigerated (2-8C) and ship on cold packs within 3 days of collection.

Appendix 1. Required information for CDC approval:

- Date of birth: _____
- Sex: _____
- County of residence: _____
- Occupation: _____
- Does the patient have a history of any immunocompromising conditions? _____
 - If yes, please specify.

- Does the patient take any immunocompromising medications? _____
 - If yes, please specify: _____
- Did the patient have a history of rodent exposure within 8 weeks of illness onset? _____
 - If yes, earliest date of exposure to rodents/rodent droppings:

- Symptom onset date: _____
- Specimen collection date: _____
- If yes, list the type and date of treatment: _____
- Brief clinical summary: What symptoms did the case have? How did they progress?

- Does the patient have:
 - Fever? _____
 - Thrombocytopenia? _____
 - Elevated hematocrit? _____
 - Elevated creatinine? _____
 - Was the patient hospitalized? _____
 - Date(s) of hospitalization? _____

- o Supplemental oxygen required? _____
- o Was the patient intubated? _____
- o Was the patient on ECMO? _____
- o Did the patient receive a chest x-ray? _____
 - If yes, was the CXR abnormal? _____
 - What were the CXR findings? _____