

CDC: First U.S. case of rat-borne Andes virus diagnosed

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(HealthDay)—The first confirmed U.S. case of a virus carried by South

American rodents occurred earlier this year, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

Doctors at a Delaware hospital diagnosed Andes [virus](#) in a 29-year-old woman in January after she developed fever, malaise, and [muscle pain](#). She spent five days in the hospital before recovering and being discharged, *CNN* reported. The woman had spent two weeks in the Andes region of Argentina and Chile, where she "stayed in cabins and youth hostels in reportedly poor condition," according to a case study published in the Oct. 19 issue of the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Andes virus is a "type of hantavirus that is found in rodents in South America," and the virus can spread to people through contact with infected rodents and their droppings, the CDC says. Early symptoms "can look similar to the flu, and may include: headache, fever, muscle aches, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea," and can appear four days to six weeks after exposure, according to the agency.

The virus can be transmitted between people, and the CDC identified 53 people in six states who had contact with the woman. None tested positive for the virus, *CNN* reported. Andes virus can lead to a fatal respiratory disease called [hantavirus pulmonary syndrome](#). "There is no specific treatment, cure, or vaccine" for the syndrome, the CDC said.

More information: [CNN Article](#)
[CDC Case Report](#)

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