

## Encountering Mice in our Schools

Hantavirus is a virus that is found in the urine, saliva, or droppings of infected deer mice and some other wild rodents (cotton rats, rice rats in the southeastern United States and the white-footed mouse and the red-backed vole). It causes a very rare but serious lung disease called Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS). The virus does not remain active for long once outside of its host – less than 1 week outdoors and a few hours when exposed to direct sunlight. To date, only 7 cases of Hantavirus have been confirmed in BC as far as records go back.

Some of the activities that are associated with exposure to Hantavirus include:

- Sweeping out a barn and other ranch buildings.

- Trapping grain (01261292) and BT2.96 Tf1 01 28 65062mg (01) JTE EMC Span MCID 7Lang (en-US) BDC q01261292eW

- Using compressed air and dry sweeping to clean up wood waste in a sawmill.

- Handling grain contaminated with mouse droppings and urine ta(ni)5(n)c wndn-USngn