

HANTAVIRUS UPDATE 2010 - AMERICAS (10): USA (COLORADO)

A ProMED-mail post

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Source: The Denver Post [edited]

<http://www.denverpost.com/ci_14500673?source=ARK_news>

Colorado health officials say Weld County recorded its 2nd-ever death caused by the [a] hantavirus carried by deer mice [*Peromyscus maniculatus*].

The death happened last month [February 2010], but officials said Tuesday [2 Mar 2010] that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment did blood tests and confirmed this week that the person had contracted the virus. The person's name was not released.

It is the 5th case ever documented in the county.

The disease is most prominent in rural areas and people contract the virus when they breathe in contaminated dust particles containing the feces or urine of deer mice, also known as rural mice.

Symptoms start within 2-3 weeks after exposure and include vomiting, high fever, and flu-like body aches.

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Communicated by:

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[This report mentions "the hantavirus" as though there was just one species, whereas there are several in North America that can cause fatal infections from hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. The Weld County, Colorado case reported above does not indicate the hantavirus involved, but Sin Nombre virus is the most likely pathogen.

A photograph of a deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), the main reservoir rodent host of Sin Nombre virus, is available at

<http://www.discoverlife.org/IM/I_RB/0000/320/Peromyscus_maniculatus,I_RB26.jpg>.

Maps showing the location of the states in the western USA including Colorado, can be accessed at

<http://www.sioux.com/images/US_MAP.gif>

and the HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map at
<<http://healthmap.org/r/0194>>.

For a map of counties showing the location of Weld County in
north-central Colorado see

<<http://www.mapsofworld.com/usa/states/colorado/colorado-maps/colorado-county-map.jpg>>.

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