

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
2811 AGRICULTURE DRIVE, PO BOX 8911  
MADISON, WI 53708-8911

**IN THE MATTER REGARDING  
REQUIRED DISEASE REPORTING BY  
ANY VETERINARIAN, DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES STAFF, OR  
PERSON WHO DIAGNOSES OR  
OBTAINS CREDIBLE DIAGNOSTIC  
EVIDENCE OF DISEASE IDENTIFIED  
IN CH. ATCP 10, UNDER APPENDIX A  
OR B.**

**AH Docket No. 35PM02247-1**

**SUMMARY SPECIAL ORDER  
ADDING HANTAVIRUS TO THE LIST  
OF DISEASES TO BE REPORTED TO  
DATCP WITHIN TEN DAYS OF  
DIAGNOSIS OR CREDIBLE  
DIAGNOSTIC EVIDENCE OF DISEASE  
UNDER APPENDIX B OF CH. ATCP 10,  
WIS. ADMIN. CODE.**

### INTRODUCTION

The State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (Department), by the State Veterinarian, based upon its efforts to protect both Wisconsin's animal and human population from the spread of hantavirus, makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law and issues the following summary special order adding hantavirus to the list of diseases to be reported to the Department within 10 days of diagnosis or credible diagnostic evidence of the disease.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

(1) The Department is responsible for administering Wisconsin's animal health program under ch. 95, Wis. Stats. The program is designed to protect the health of animals in this state, and to prevent, control and eradicate communicable diseases among animals. The Department has broad authority to adopt rules interpreting statutes under its jurisdiction (see s. 93.07 (1), Wis. Stats.).

(2) To protect the health of animals located in this state and of humans residing in this state, the Department may establish, maintain, enforce, and regulate quarantines and other measures relating to the importation, movement, and care of animals and their products, the disinfection of suspected localities and articles, and the disposition of animals, as the Department determines are necessary (see s. 93.07 (10), Wis. Stats.).

(3) A veterinarian, the Department of Natural Resources, or a person who diagnoses or obtains credible diagnostic evidence of specified diseases must report the disease to the

Department within ten days of discovery of the disease in any animal in this state (see s. 95.22 (1), Wis. Stats., and s. ATCP 10.03 (1), and ch. ATCP 10, Appendix B, Wis. Admin. Code).

(4) Hantaviruses are a family of related viruses found worldwide, typically carried by rodents. People can get hantavirus infections from having contact with, or being in close proximity to infected rodents, or their urine and droppings. It can also be transmitted through a bite from an infected rodent. This virus cannot be spread from person to person.

(5) The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are investigating illnesses caused by the Seoul virus, a very rare type of hantavirus carried by Norway rats. Rats with Seoul virus will appear healthy.

(6) While Seoul virus infection in humans is generally considered less severe than some other types of hantavirus infections, it can still cause a severe illness in some cases. Some people may develop a severe form of infection known as hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS), and an estimated 1-2% of people may die after being infected with Seoul virus. Because there is presently no effective treatment for Seoul virus infection, preventing infections in people is important.

(7) DHS is working with the CDC and IDPH to look for additional human cases in Wisconsin or other states, and to determine where the infected rats came from.

(8) Seoul virus has been determined to be the cause of illness in people. At least two individuals who operated a home-based rat-breeding facility in Wisconsin were found to have Seoul virus, one was hospitalized. The investigation indicates that two Illinois ratteries may be linked to the outbreak.

(9) Follow-up investigations by CDC and partnering state and local health departments indicate that potentially infected rodents may have been distributed or received in Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin.

(10) The DHS has requested that the Department make hantavirus a disease to be reported within 10 days of diagnosis or credible diagnostic evidence of disease under Appendix B of ch. ATCP 10, Wis. Admin. Code, and the Department agrees to do so due to the zoonotic nature of the disease.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

(1) Under chs. 93 and 95, Wis. Stats., the Department has jurisdiction over the protection of the health of animals in this state and the authority to prevent, control, and eradicate communicable diseases among animals through quarantines and other measures. The Department is authorized to take this action to protect animal and human health in Wisconsin.

(2) Hantavirus is a zoonotic organism that can cause disease in people and poses a public health risk.

(3) Making hantavirus a disease to be reported within 10 days of diagnosis or credible diagnostic evidence of disease under Appendix B of ch. ATCP 10, Wis. Admin. Code, will help to identify and eradicate the disease in Wisconsin.

## SPECIAL ORDER

Based upon the above stated findings of fact and conclusions of law, and in accordance with ss. 93.07 (10) and 95.22, Wis. Stats., and ch. ATCP 10, Wis. Admin. Code, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

(1) Hantavirus is added to the list of diseases to be reported to the Department within 10 days of diagnosis or credible diagnostic evidence of disease under Appendix B of ch. ATCP 10, Wis. Admin. Code.

(2) A person may make a report under par. (1) by telephone, email, fax or by any other effective means of communication that ensures the report will reach the department within the seven days as follows:

[Paul.Mcgraw@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Paul.Mcgraw@wisconsin.gov)

Wisconsin DATCP

Division of Animal Health

P.O. Box 8911

Madison, WI 53708-8911

Phone: (608) 224-4872

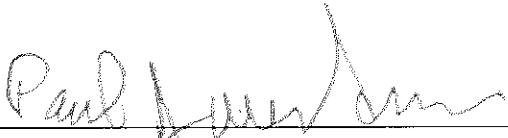
FAX: (608) 224-4871

(3) The reported information shall include the species, age, sex, and breed of the animal possibly infected with the disease, the address of the premises where animals are kept, and the premises code, if any.

(4) This order will remain in effect until it is rescinded by the Wisconsin State Veterinarian.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

By:   
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Paul J. McGraw, DVM  
State Veterinarian