

Cruise Ship Hantavirus Outbreak Leaves 3 Dead as WHO Investigates Atlantic Voyage

Three passengers are dead and several others are sick after a suspected hantavirus outbreak aboard the Dutch-operated cruise ship MV Hondius in the Atlantic Ocean, according to the World Health Organization and South African health officials. The ship remains anchored off Cape Verde as health authorities investigate the source of the outbreak.

The outbreak began during a weekslong expedition cruise that departed from Argentina and included stops in Antarctica and the Falkland Islands before heading across the Atlantic. South Africa's Department of Health said the first victim, a 70-year-old passenger, died aboard the ship. His wife later collapsed at an airport in South Africa and died at a nearby hospital. A British passenger remains in intensive care in Johannesburg after testing positive for hantavirus.



Order Dr. Don Colbert's New Book, "Live Long and Strong" on !

The World Health Organization confirmed at least one laboratory-confirmed hantavirus case while additional suspected infections remain under investigation. WHO said, "Detailed investigations are ongoing, including further laboratory testing, and epidemiological investigations."

Oceanwide Expeditions, the company operating the vessel, said two crew members onboard also developed symptoms requiring urgent medical attention. Cape Verde authorities have not yet allowed passengers or crew to disembark as officials work to contain the situation.

Hantavirus is a rare but dangerous virus typically spread

through exposure to infected rodent urine, droppings or saliva. The disease can trigger severe respiratory illness and, in some cases, kidney failure. The CDC says there is no specific cure, though early treatment can improve survival chances.

As fear spreads alongside reports of the outbreak, we should continue lifting up in prayer the families grieving loved ones, the passengers and crew still stranded aboard the ship, and the medical teams responding to the crisis. We should pray for healing for those battling sickness and ask God to calm the fear and anxiety that health emergencies like this can stir across the world.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary* and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.