

# Cal Poly

## Code of Safe Practice

### Hantavirus Protection – Cleanup of Rodent Droppings

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These safety practices shall be followed where a hazard exists to employees because of potential exposure to Hantavirus when cleaning up large deposits of rodent droppings. These procedures do not apply to small amounts of droppings that are normally found on rodent travel paths and around food sources.

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### Hantavirus Disinfection Procedures

Areas infested with heavy deposits of rodent droppings or urine may pose the threat of Hantavirus infection. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is a frequently-fatal illness which is carried by deer mice and can be transmitted to humans. The highest risks of infection are related to cleaning rodent-infested buildings and working in enclosed spaces infested with rodents. The following procedures should be followed when working in or under rodent-infested buildings.

#### **Personal protective equipment to be worn while performing disinfection and cleaning activities:**

1. Protective gloves made of latex, vinyl, nitrile, or neoprene.
2. Protective goggles. Full coverage chemical splash goggles should be used.
3. If activities require cleaning heavy infestations of rodent droppings (defined as piles of feces or numerous nests in an area), an air purifying respirator fitted with HEPA (N-100 or P-100) cartridges and protective tyvek-type suits should be worn.

#### **Disinfection / Cleaning Materials Needed:**

1. Household bleach or any material labeled “Disinfectant”
2. Pressurized (Hudson type) sprayer or hand squeeze sprayer
3. Water
4. Paper towels or mop

#### **Disinfection and Cleaning Procedures:**

1. Persons performing these activities must wear the protective equipment listed above and be properly trained in its use.
2. Mix the bleach and water in the sprayer in the ratio of one part bleach to nine parts water. If using another disinfectant, follow dilution instructions on the product label.
3. Spray the droppings, nests, and infested areas until they are **saturated** with the bleach/disinfectant solution.

4. Allow disinfectant to sit for a minimum of 5 minutes.
5. Wipe up the droppings with paper towels or a mop. Vacuums or brooms may also be used after disinfection.
6. Place all contaminated materials in double plastic trash bags and tie securely. These may be disposed in the normal garbage.
7. After removing droppings and urine, disinfect items that might have been contaminated: mop floors with disinfectant / bleach solution; wipe countertops, cabinets, and surfaces with this solution; spray dirt floors with disinfectant / bleach; spray carpets with disinfectant / bleach or use commercial grade steam cleaner or shampoo; launder contaminated bedding and clothing with hot water and detergent.
8. Wash the outside of rubber gloves with the bleach/disinfectant solution prior to removing gloves.
9. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after removing gloves.
10. Work may proceed normally after this.