

Vancouver Island West School District 84  
**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM**

**SAFE WORK PROCEDURES FOR  
CLEAN-UP OF MOUSE FECES, URINE AND CARCASSES**

**How to Clean Up Small Quantities of Rodent-Contaminated Areas:**

1. **Review this procedure** and gather all necessary supplies and personal protective equipment together.
2. Clear all unnecessary workers and public from the area.
3. **Do not vacuum**, as vacuuming could result in contaminants becoming airborne.
4. Cover any broken skin that may be exposed to infection, with an antibacterial solution such as Polysporin and a bandage.
5. Put on your disposable N95 respirator (face mask) and your disposable gloves.
6. Ventilate the area by opening windows and doors leading to the outside, if possible.
7. Mix a disinfecting solution, as recommended by the manufacturer, for decontaminating and disinfecting the area – or a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach to 100 parts water).
8. Remove the carcasses from the snap traps and set snap traps aside.
9. Gently apply the solution to the rodent-infected material and surfaces, excreta, nesting materials, and carcasses to **dampen** (avoid using a stream of liquid as this may create aerosols) – and leave to somewhat dry.
10. Scoop up the material and dispose all contaminated material in double plastic bags, being careful to not puncture the bags. Seal the bags and label them to identify the contents. Dispose of them with the regular garbage.
11. Wipe or mop surfaces with a solution of disinfectant and detergent – using a mop and bucket that is specifically for the Hantavirus control program (i.e. not used for every day cleaning).
12. Sanitize all reusable equipment and return to tool kit.
13. Re-set the snap traps as required (non-peanut butter provided – will be in fridge if already opened).
14. Remove disposable respirator (face mask) and gloves and place in plastic bag, seal, label, and dispose in garbage.
15. Wash any exposed skin and wash hands.
16. Report signs of rodent activity to your Supervisor or the Operations Department.

## How to Clean Up Where There is Evidence of Significant Rodent Activity:

1. **Review this procedure** and gather all necessary supplies and personal protective equipment together.
2. Inform your Supervisor and the Operations Department before cleaning up large amounts of rodent droppings or when handling materials significantly contaminated with rodent droppings.
3. Clear all unnecessary workers and public from area, and isolate area (using ribbon or signs, etc.).
4. **Do not vacuum**, as vacuuming could result in contaminants becoming airborne.
5. Cover any broken skin that may be exposed to infection, with an antibacterial solution such as Polysporin and a bandage.
6. Ventilate the area by opening windows and doors leading to the outside, if possible.
7. Put on a half-mask air-purifying respirator equipped with P100 filters or a powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) with P100 filters.
8. Put on disposable gloves.
9. Put on disposable coveralls that are made of a material that will resist the penetration of dust particles and ensure a snug fit at the wrists and ankles.
10. Put on rubber boots or disposable shoe covers when footwear contamination is likely.
11. Put on eye or face protection (goggles without vent holes) to prevent aerosols from coming into contact with the mucous membranes of the eyes.
12. Mix a disinfecting solution, as recommended by the manufacturer, for decontaminating and disinfecting the area – or a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach to 100 parts water).
13. Remove the carcasses from the snap traps and set snap traps aside.
14. Gently apply the disinfectant solution to **dampen** the rodent-infected material and surfaces, excreta, nesting materials, and carcasses (avoid using a stream of liquid as this may create aerosols). Use the same disinfectant solution to decontaminate your footwear.
15. Vacuum with a vacuum cleaner equipped with a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter.
16. If the material is soaked through to the point of run-off, use a scoop or shovel to carefully move the material into a plastic disposal bag. Double bag and seal the bags. Label them to identify the contents and handle the bag in a manner that will avoid punctures – and then dispose with regular garbage.
17. Wipe or mop surfaces with a solution of disinfectant and detergent – using a mop and bucket that is specifically for the Hantavirus Control Program (i.e. not used for every day cleaning).
18. Re-set snap traps, as required (non-peanut butter provided – will be in fridge if already opened).
19. Decontaminate and remove personal protective equipment and clothing in accordance with the decontamination procedure. Return any reusable equipment to the tool kit.
20. Wash any exposed skin and wash hands.