

In summary,

While you may adopt from a rattery or store that has tested negative for Seoul, the size of the outbreak in the United States and Canada is unknown.

Because of this, the possibility of acquiring a rat from a source that has not tested, but may be exposed is enough for you and your family to be informed on the signs and symptoms.

Remember that this brochure cannot, and is not meant to, be a replacement for a doctor.

If you are concerned about anything you are experiencing after contact with a rat, **see a doctor**. General blood work will not test for Seoul, so its important that if you do need to see a health care provider that you request this specific test be run.

This guide is not meant to cause uneasiness about your new pet! It is simply to keep you informed on an on-going issue in the rat-world.



Pet Rats and SEOV: What you need to know.

The unofficial run down on Seoul Virus and why it's important you're informed.



Information cited from:

dph.illinois.gov
cdc.gov

If you have specific concerns or questions about the Seoul virus that have not been covered by this please consult your local health department or go to the websites above to search for more SEOV information.

The basics of the Seoul Hantavirus

What is Seoul virus?

Seoul virus is a virus carried by rats. It is a milder type of hantavirus.

How do humans become infected with Seoul virus?

Seoul virus is carried and transmitted by rats. The virus has been found in both pet rats and wild rats around the world. People can become infected with this virus after coming into contact with urine, droppings, or saliva of infected rats.

What are the symptoms of Seoul virus infection?

- Fever
- Headache
- Back and abdominal pain
- Chills
- Nausea
- Blurred vision
- Flushing of the face
- Inflammation or redness of the eyes
- Rash

Symptoms of the illness caused by Seoul virus usually begin within 1 to 2 weeks after contact with infectious material. Rarely, it may take up to 8 weeks to develop symptoms. ^(cdc.gov)

In rare cases, infection can also lead to a type of acute renal disease called Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS), which might include low blood pressure, acute shock, and acute kidney failure.

However, Seoul virus infections are usually moderate and the vast majority of patients survive. Complete recovery can take weeks or months. Some people do not develop symptoms at all or have very mild symptoms

How is Seoul virus infection diagnosed?

Blood tests are used to confirm a diagnosis of Seoul virus infection.

How do I know if my pet rat is infected with Seoul virus?

Rats do not show symptoms of disease when they are infected with Seoul virus. The only way to know if they are infected is through laboratory testing.

What should I do if I think I may have symptoms?

Seek prompt medical attention if you think you may be infected with Seoul virus. Tell your health care provider about your symptoms and explain your contact with rats.

A note from RITN:

Seoul is not the only thing rats can carry by far. The reason the Seoul outbreak had been so panic-driven was that it was the first time it had been given to humans via pet rats in the United States.

These guides and brochures are just to keep you up to date and 'in the know' of the things that your pet can carry. Similarly to how when you get lizards from a petstore, or baby chickens around Easter, you are given guides to what they can potentially have.

These are not meant to frighten you or make you wary about you rats! They do make absolutely amazing pets! It's just important you know!

