



May 27, 2026

Dominic Mancini
Deputy Director
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC

Subject: Request for Emergency Review and Clearance

Dear Mr. Mancini:

Pursuant to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established at 5 CFR Part 1320,

Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public, I request that the information collection project, 2026 Andes Hantavirus Cruise Passenger and Traveler Contact Monitoring, be processed in accordance with section 1320.13, Emergency Processing.

I have determined that this information must be collected prior to the expiration of the time period established under Part 1320, and that this information is essential to inform CDC and interagency decision makers on state/local health department traveler monitoring activities related to returning passengers of the M/V Hondius, a cruise ship that departed from Ushuaia, Argentina, and contacts of either confirmed or probable Andes hantavirus cases. The final destination, where all passengers disembarked, was the Canary Islands.

Andes hantavirus infection is a severe illness in humans and can result in severe respiratory illness and death. The Andes subtype of hantavirus is also the only known hantavirus documented to spread from person-to-person, therefore increasing the risk to passengers and travelers who may have come in contact with a confirmed case. The true risk of infection is unknown, so close monitoring of close contacts of confirmed and probable cases must be done in order to quickly identify any new cases and quickly isolate and provide clinical treatment.

To further protect U.S. communities from an imported case of Andes hantavirus, the United States must be prepared to respond domestically by providing state and local health departments and healthcare facilities with the necessary assessments and questionnaires that can assist in identifying high-risk exposures in passengers of the M/V Hondius and high-risk travelers who may have come in contact with a confirmed case.

CDC proposes to conduct initial risk-assessments to determine if cruise passengers may have had any high-risk exposures to Andes hantavirus confirmed cases and closely monitor them over 42 days for any signs and symptoms of Andes hantavirus infection. CDC requests 180 days of data collection approval. State and local health departments will also identify high-risk contacts of confirmed Andes hantavirus cases and perform routine monitoring and follow-up to identify any new Andes hantavirus cases.

CDC cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures due to public harm that will result if routine processing of this request is required. CDC requests authorization to collect information from state and local health departments to mitigate the risk of transmission and spread of Andes hantavirus in the United States. If an emergency approval is not granted, then the transmission of Andes hantavirus



cases may go undetected.

Given that this is an emerging public health situation, and a timely public health response is critical to containment, please provide an approval/disapproval determination of this request to collect information under an emergency clearance by close of business tomorrow, May 28, 2026.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Braden".

Christopher R. Braden, M.D.
Acting Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic
Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)