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Hantavirus continues its attack on Panama

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The Hantavirus disease is already at work in Panama, especially in the area of Tonosí, Los Santos. 15 cases were reported in the country during the first quarter of 2018.

The causes of this scourge are derived from the contagion with rodents and it is considered potentially fatal. Hantavirus is a contagious disease but it is not transmitted from human to human.

The Health Minister, Miguel Mayo, said before the reported figures that “It is important that the community knows that the first health safety ring is in each other, that is to say when they go to a place that has been unoccupied for a long time for camping purposes; it is important to clean the area, using a mask to prevent excreta from being inhaled.”

The health authorities of the country and, in particular, the Gorgas Memorial Institute, are continually carrying out tests against possible new cases and have preventive operations in case they are needed. According to Minister Mayo, there are specialized personnel in the field, especially in the area that has reported the greatest number of cases.

The main recommendations given by the head of the health Ministry were: do not come into contact with the animals that spread the disease, avoid breathing waste, not having spilled food without any protection and close all possible access routes to rodents.

In the last hours a new case of contagion was made known; it corresponds to a minor only 11 years old who remains in medical surveillance at the Joaquín Pablo Franco Hospital.

Miguel Mayo also reminded the population that the 911 emergency number is available in case of any emergency.