

Summary of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2) detections in the North America (2018-2020)  
(Information current as of April 2, 2020)

Prepared by: Julianna Lenocho (FEIS) and Lynn Creekmore (ASEP)

**New Mexico:** On March 24, 2020, RHDV2 in pet rabbits was confirmed at FADDL. Since the initial report, 5 additional detections on premises in 5 counties have been confirmed, and this investigation is ongoing. On April 2, we confirmed RHDV2 in a wild black-tailed jackrabbit and wild cottontails, representing the first detection of this virus in wild rabbits in the United States.

**New York:** An outbreak of RHDV2 localized in Manhattan, New York concentrated around an exotic small animal veterinary clinic. A total of 13 privately owned rabbits are known to have died between Feb 18, 2020 and March 6, 2020. This clinic has completed cleaning and disinfection and is in process of completing post cleaning and disinfection fallow period.

**Washington State:** From July 2019 – January 2020, RHDV2 was detected in pet rabbits and feral domestic rabbits Washington State. The initial detections were on Orcas Island in San Juan County. This was followed by additional detections on San Juan Island in San Juan County and Whidbey Island in Island County as well as one mainland premises in Clallam County. These are within close proximity of the Canadian detections in 2018. Washington was permitted a limited amount of vaccine importation for purpose of disease control in domestic rabbits due to disease presence in feral populations.

**Ohio:** A single premise in Medina County, Ohio of pet rabbits was detected on September 19, 2018. This was the first detection of RHDV2 in the United States. This was a closed premise (no animals in/out) and wildlife surveillance in the surrounding area did not identify any other infection.

**Vancouver, British Columbia:** There were multiple reported detections of RHDV2 on Delta and Vancouver Island Canada in feral domestic rabbits Feb-May, 2018. Additional detections have continued into 2019. Private practitioners have been offering imported vaccine for disease control.



RHDV2 does not impact human health, nor a risk to animals other than rabbits. RHDV2 is highly contagious, fatal, and affects domestic and wild rabbits, including hares, jackrabbits and cottontails.

Additional note: In December 2018, there was a confirmed case of RHDV1 in 2 pet rabbits in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. This type 1 virus is a different strain than RHDV2.

Veterinary Services Published information:

[Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Risk Notice June 2018](#)

[Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Risk Notice Oct 2019](#)

[Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Factsheet Oct 2019](#)