

The Spring Sickness is based off a model of *hantavirus*, a real life virus that can cause hemorrhagic fever, renal failure, and respiratory failure. It can have a mortality rate of up to 38% even with the treatment of modern medicine.

Phase 1

Once you have been infected, symptoms take about 1 to 8 weeks to develop. Initial symptoms mimic that of the flu:

- * Fever
- * Malaise
- * Chills, sweaty palms
- * Diarrhea
- * Coughing and sneezing

The most characteristic symptoms of the early stage is a bright red flushing of the cheeks and inflammation and redness of the eyes.

Phase 2

Blood platelet levels drop. A fast pulse rate is common. Blindingly powerful headaches and mild shortness of breath are enough to stop infected from being productive and going about their everyday lives.

Widespread bruising may appear from seemingly nowhere-- knocks, accidental bumps can all cause harsh bruising.

This stage lasts about 1-2 days. If the infected recovers, they recover at this phase, though sudden-onset deafness occurs in about one-third of cases.

Phase 3

Rapid deterioration begins. Urine becomes foamy as a sign of proteinuria and red from blood as the infected enters renal failure. There is pain in the flank and excessive thirst, as well as swelling of the lower limbs. Vomiting occurs and has the appearance of coffee-grounds from the presence of blood.

Platelet count drops so low that the infected may have severe, uncontrollable bleeding. Numerous petechiae (small dots of blood pooling under the skin) may form. Fluid fills up in lungs, leading to acute respiratory failure: it shows itself in worsening, labored shortness of breath; feeling like a band around the chest, or like something is constricting the lungs.

Infected becomes severely hypoxemic-- their oxygen levels drop low. Lips and nailbeds may develop a

bluish color, and unlike the redness that marked the first phase, color is completely absent from their cheeks from internal bleeding, leaving them an unsettling white.

Confusion and excessive fatigue sets in, as well as excessive urination of three to six liters a day; infected may urinate on themselves.

Infected dies shortly after reaching this phase.