



Symptoms:

- Usually symptoms occur in 7-14 days, with a range of 2 to 30 days after being exposed.
- Often mild and resemble the flu

Fever	Nausea
Headache	Vomiting
Chills	Diarrhea
Muscle aches	Sweating
Body pains	Weakness
Red eyes	Loss of appetite

Other more serious symptoms:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Stiff neck | Coughing up blood |
| Jaundice
(yellowing of
skin and eyes) | Kidney failure
Liver damage |
| Heart failure | Death |



If you think you have symptoms of leptospirosis, **see a doctor right away.**

Tell the doctor about any recent contact with freshwater or animals and ask them to test for leptospirosis.

Antibiotic treatment may be effective if the disease is diagnosed early.

Information

For more information, call:

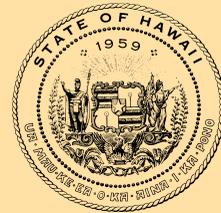
Oahu:

Disease Outbreak Control Division (808) 586-4586
 Vector Control Branch (808) 483-2535

Neighbor Islands:

Maui: (808) 984-8213
 Kaua'i: (808) 241-3563
 East Hawai'i: (808) 933-0912
 West Hawai'i: (808) 322-4877

DOH website at:
<http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/dib/disease/leptospirosis>
CDC website at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis>

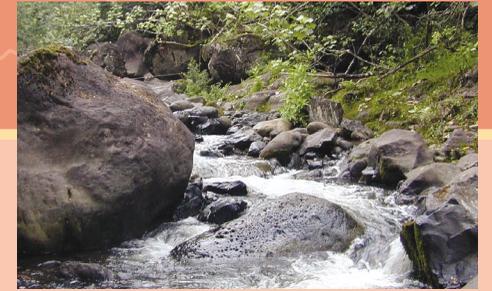


Nondiscrimination in Services

We provide access to our programs and activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write or call this program or our departmental Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-9984, or at 586-4616 (voice/TTY) within 180 days of a problem.

Neil Abercrombie, Governor
Garry L. Gill, Acting Director of Health

What is Leptospirosis?



Leptospirosis:

A bacterial disease that is passed from animals to humans. Rats and mice are the most important sources in Hawaii. Domestic and wild animals such as rodents, mongooses, pigs, cattle, livestock and dogs can also transmit the disease. Leptospirosis is found worldwide but is more common in tropical areas like Hawaii. *Leptospira* bacteria can live for long periods in fresh water and mud.

How are people infected?



Leptospira bacteria magnified 20,000 times.

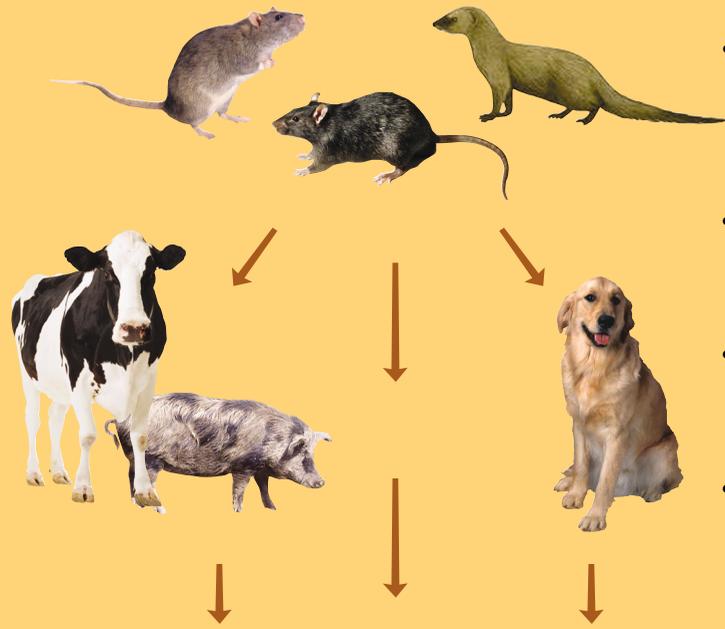
- Swimming, wading, hiking and fishing in freshwater ponds, waterfalls or streams contaminated with animal urine.
- Farming, gardening or touching moist soil or vegetation contaminated with animal urine.
- Touching urine, tissues, or blood of infected animals.
- Drinking contaminated fresh water.
- Exposure to flood waters.

Lep•to•spi•ro•sis

is a bacterial infection causing mild to severe flu-like illness. *Leptospira* bacteria are spread in the urine of infected animals. People catch leptospirosis when *Leptospira* bacteria in freshwater streams, mud or animal urine get into their eyes, nose, mouth or broken skin.



How leptospirosis is spread



- Animals such as rats, mice, mongooses, livestock and dogs get infected with *Leptospira* bacteria.
- Urine of infected animals contaminates soil and fresh water.
- Humans can catch leptospirosis from the contaminated fresh water and soil.
- *Leptospira* bacteria enter the eyes, nose, mouth and open cuts or wounds.

Steps to avoid getting leptospirosis



1 Avoid swimming, wading, hiking or playing in freshwater streams or waterfalls especially when you have cuts or abrasions. Do not dive or put your head underwater if you swim in freshwater streams or waterfalls.

2 Protect yourself when you are:

- Working in moist soil or water
- Farming or gardening
- Clearing vegetation
- Caring for pets and livestock
- Fishing and prawning
- Hunting and butchering animals

By wearing:

- Gloves
- Heavy pants or waders
- Boots
- Goggles
- Long sleeves

3 Treat stream water and catchment water by vigorous boiling for 1 minute or chemical treatment before drinking. Filters may not work.

4 Control rodents and wildlife around your home by trapping, removing nests, and poisoning. Do not allow them to get to food and garbage. Keep water catchment areas free from branches and prevent access by animals. Call the Department of Health (see contact information on back) for help.

5 Vaccinate pets and farm animals for leptospirosis. Ask your veterinarian for information.

6 Drain standing water

