

# After the Storm: Leptospirosis and Vector Control



## FOR RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY FLOODING

The risk of infection rises from potential exposures to pathogens during cleanup after a storm. Learn how to protect yourself and others.

### What to Know:



- Rats shed *Leptospira* bacteria in the environment through urine, infecting other animals, such as livestock, feral pigs and mongooses.
- Bacteria enters the body through cuts and abrasions, or eyes, nose or mouth.
- Early key symptoms are fever/chills and muscle/body aches.
- If not treated, individual can develop meningitis, respiratory distress, kidney or liver damage, or even death.
- Antibiotics can be used to treat leptospirosis.

### What to Do:



- Avoid skin contact with stormwater, mud or damp vegetation or materials.
- Keep animals and contaminated water out of catchment water-collection systems.
- Wear protective clothing when outdoors or disposing of dead animals.
- Cover up skin cuts.
- Get treatment early. Watch out for early symptoms and see a doctor promptly.

### And don't forget mosquito control!

While not related to leptospirosis, mosquito populations spike in wet weather. Eliminate standing water, wear protective clothing or insect repellent, and fix holes in screens.

More information: <https://health.hawaii.gov/vcb/mosquitoes/>

**PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES.**

Leptospirosis and Vector Control | Updated March 26, 2026