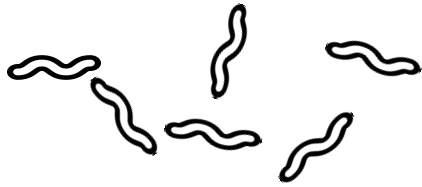


Leptospirosis

Fact Sheet



Leptospirosis is a disease caused by the bacteria of the genus *Leptospira*. The bacteria can be found in urine and bodily fluids of infected animals.

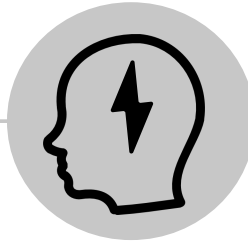


Leptospirosis spreads by touching urine and bodily fluids of infected animals and through drinking or touching contaminated water or soil.

Common Signs and Symptoms



Fever and Chills



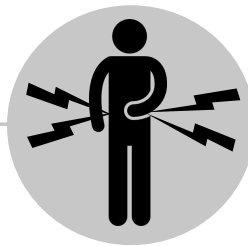
Headache



Muscle Aches



Vomiting



Stomach Pain



Diarrhea

Signs and symptoms of leptospirosis can also include jaundice (or yellowing of the skin and eyes), a skin rash, and red eyes. The illness can progress to kidney and liver failure. Signs and symptoms usually show up two days to four weeks after exposure. Treatment is most effective when started as soon as possible.



Talk to your doctor if you think you have leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is diagnosed based on signs and symptoms and confirmed with a blood test. Leptospirosis is treated with antibiotics. Treatment is most effective when started as soon as possible.

Animals

Many animals can spread leptospirosis, including pets, farm animals, or wildlife. Infected animals can include:



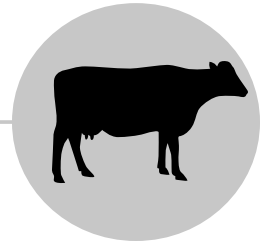
Rodents



Dogs



Raccoons

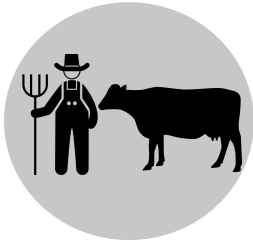


Cows

Infected animals can also include pigs, horses, sheep, goats, and opossums. Animals may not show signs of illness.

Risk Factors

People who work outdoors or with animals may be at increased risk for infection, such as:



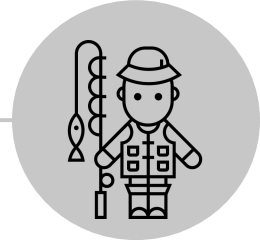
Farmers (Including Dairy)



Veterinarians



Active Military Personnel



Fishermen

Other people at risk include people who work as sewer, mine, and slaughterhouse workers and people who swim, raft, or kayak in freshwater.

Prevention



- Get vaccines for your pets that can protect against leptospirosis.
- Do not touch animal urine or body fluids.
- Do not swim, walk in, or swallow water that may have animal fluids in it.
- Wear protective clothing or footwear near soil or water that may be contaminated with animal urine.

For More Information



Visit www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.