

What?

- **Leptospirosis (also known as Weil's disease) is a form of a bacterial infection that is carried by animals, most commonly rats and cattle.**
- **It is a serious and sometimes fatal infection transmitted by contact with urine from infected animals (and also by inhaling dust from droppings).**
- **The bacteria can enter through breaks in the skin, such as scratches or cuts, or through the lining of the mouth and nose after contact with urine-contaminated water such as ditches, slowing moving rivers and canals.**



Why?



- Although the risk of human infection in the UK is small, it is worth taking some preventative measures to decrease the possibility of contracting it.
- Symptoms start with a flu-like illness and a persistent and severe headache and later, vomiting, muscle pains and jaundice.
- Leptospirosis is less severe if treated promptly, so if you experience any symptoms after working in areas where there might be rats, stagnant or contaminated water, make sure you see a doctor.

Do ✓

- ✓ Cover any cuts, grazes, scratches or eczema areas with waterproof plasters
- ✓ Wear the correct PPE e.g. wellington boots and rubber gloves if working in or near to water
- ✓ Wash your hands before eating, drinking or smoking, and after you have finished working
- ✓ Let the leader know of any areas where rats have been seen
- ✓ Seek immediate medical attention if symptoms occur and let your doctor know that you have been working close to water

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't touch dead animals with your bare hands
- ✗ Don't drink water from places like rivers, canals or lakes
- ✗ Don't encourage the presence of vermin; keep the site tidy and dispose of all rubbish correctly



Document Name	<i>TBT Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease)</i>	Document No.	<i>OC/HS/TBT 61</i>
Document Owner	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	Date of Issue	<i>07.06.20</i>
Related TBTs	<i>Ponds & Water Bodies</i>	Version No.	<i>1</i>