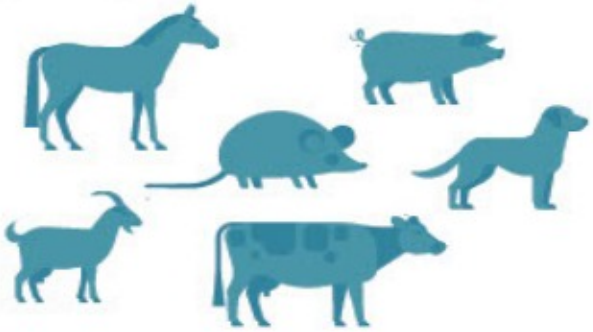
Protect Yourself from Leptospirosis
After the Storm

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that can increase after hurricanes or floods when people may have to wade through contaminated water or use it for drinking or bathing.



People can get leptospirosis when they have contact with:

- urine from infected animals, which can include rodents, dogs, livestock, pigs, and wildlife.
- floodwater, freshwater like rivers or streams, unsafe tap water, wet soil, or food contaminated with the urine of infected animals.

The bacteria can enter the body through cuts or scratches or through the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Prevent It



Do not wade, swim, bathe, or put your head in, or swallow floodwater or any fresh water source that may be contaminated by floodwater or animal urine.



Cover cuts or scratches with waterproof bandages or other coverings that seal out water.



Do not walk outside barefoot. Wear waterproof protective clothing, gloves, closed shoes, or boots near water or wet soil that may be contaminated by animal urine or floodwater.

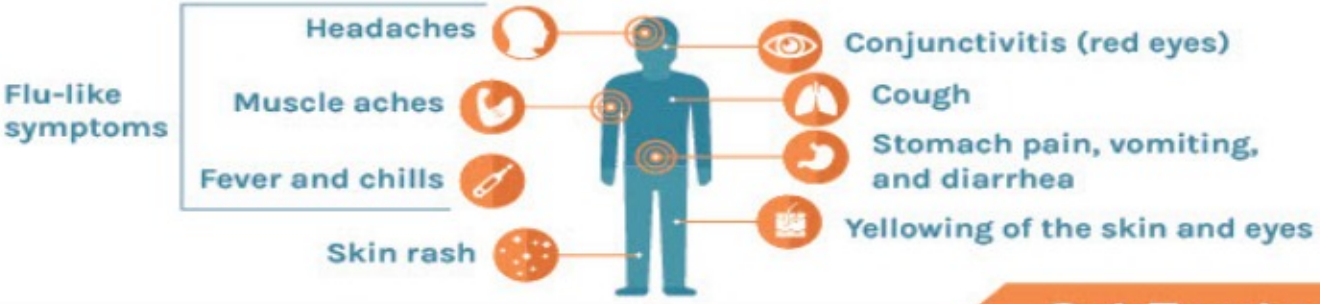


Treat potentially contaminated water to make it safe for drinking by boiling or chemically treating.



Prevent rodent infestation by keeping food and trash in closed containers and trapping rodents.

Learn the Symptoms



Get Treatment



If you have symptoms of leptospirosis, see a doctor as soon as possible. Early treatment with antibiotics may help prevent more severe illness and decrease how long you are sick. Without treatment, leptospirosis symptoms can get worse. People can develop kidney and liver failure, meningitis, difficulty breathing, bleeding, and, in some cases, people may die from their infection.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis