



Irish Water Safety

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Irish Water Safety is the statutory voluntary body established to promote water safety in Ireland.
Tá Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann ina bhord deonach reachtúil a bunaíodh le sábháilteacht uisce a chotú in Éireann.

Our partners in water safety

WEIL'S DISEASE

Irish Water Safety in partnership with
Friendly Systems



Friendly Systems

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Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

Irish Water Safety is the statutory and voluntary body established to promote water safety in Ireland.
Tá Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann ina bhord deonach reachtúil a bunaíodh le sábháilteacht uisce a chotú in Éireann.

For further information on Approved Products
& Educational Seminars, contact:
Friendly Systems.



WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO PREVENT IT

WEIL'S DISEASE

WHAT IS IT?

Weil's Disease also known as Leptospirosis is an acute, infectious disease. It is caused by different types of one bacteria of which there are over 200 known strains. Weil's Disease is spread in the urine of infected animals (wild and domestic) and in water or soil contaminated with infected urine. The bacteria thrive in wet and moist conditions and can survive for months in stagnant water or wet soil.

CONTRACTING THE DISEASE

The infection enters through broken, grazed or cut skin especially on the hands and feet and sometimes through the lining of the mouth, nose and eyes. It can also be picked up while wading or swimming in infected water.

SYMPTOMS:

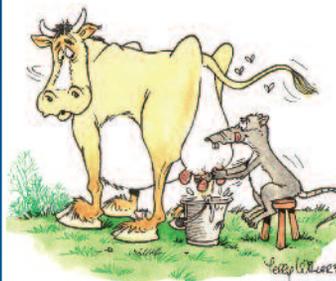
Symptoms may include fever, headaches, chills, severe muscle pain in the calves and thighs, vomiting, diarrhoea and bloodshot eyes. Sometimes the fever may fluctuate and other symptoms such as a rash, jaundice, confusion, depression, kidney failure, liver failure and meningitis may occur. The incubation period is usually 10 days but can range from 4 to 19 days. If Symptoms persist please contact your G.P.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Effluent Treatment Plant Workers, Sewer Workers, Refuse collection and processing, Underground Cable Laying and Maintenance Workers, Miners, Farmers, Gardeners, Abattoir Workers, Animal Care Workers, People who use water for recreational purposes, Fishermen, Boating and Canoeing enthusiasts, Outdoor pursuits activities, i.e. Hill walking, camping, Scouting Associations, Rescue Services, Fire Services, Army and Garda Personnel.

PREVENTION:

- Adhere to a rigid hygiene policy.
- Cover all cuts, scratches and abrasions with a waterproof dressing.
- Wear protective clothing especially gloves when handling soil, vegetation, animal feeds, tools or equipment that may be contaminated. Avoid touching mouth and nose.
- Food stuffs should not be consumed in the work area.
- Do not go swimming or boating in water which is obviously polluted.
- Cover any cuts or abrasions with a waterproof dressing while swimming or canoeing.
- Shower thoroughly following water activities.
- Wash your hands after handling any animal or contaminated clothing and always before eating, drinking or smoking.
- Animal workers should consult a vet about cattle infection and both they and sewer workers should wear protective clothing.
- If you get a flu-like illness within a three week period after engaging in any of these activities, you should visit your doctor immediately, and tell of your fears and possible exposure to the disease.
- Spray all suspect work areas with an approved product. On completion of work decontaminate all protective clothing, tools and equipment with an approved solution. Sanitise hands thoroughly with Healthy Hands before eating and on completion of work.



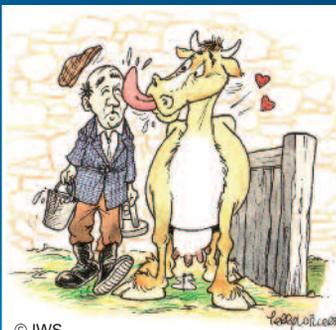
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Remember that not only you but animals too are at risk of infection



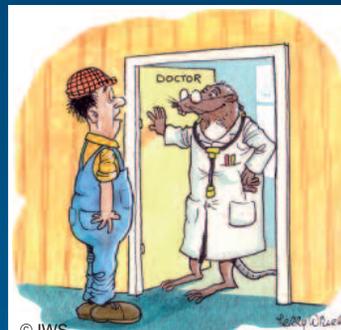
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Wash hands before and after work



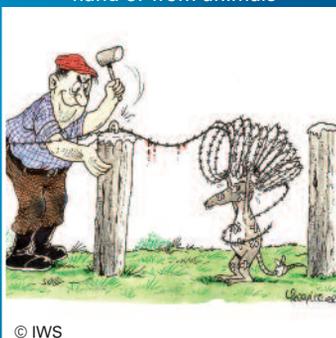
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Be careful not to transfer fluids to your eyes or mouth either by hand or from animals



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Consult a Doctor if you suspect infection



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Be aware of less obvious areas that put you at risk



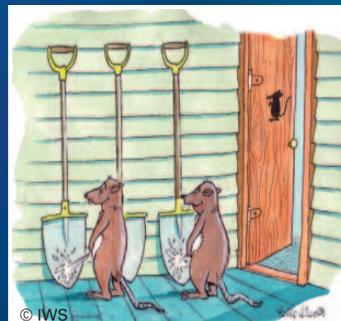
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Treat tools before and after work



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Areas where rats live are also sources of infection even when the rats are not at home



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Store tools away from possible infection