

PRIME SAFETY (EUROPE) LIMITED

REMEMBER :

- **WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**
- **WASH THOROUGHLY**
- **BE CAREFUL - AVOID CUTS AND SCRATCHES**
- **DON'T EAT DRINK OR SMOKE WITHOUT WASHING THOROUGHLY FIRST**

IF YOU EXPERIENCE A FLU LIKE ILLNESS AFTER BEING IN CONTACT WITH CONTAMINATED WATER, GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR DOCTOR OR TO ANY HOSPITAL ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT STATING THAT YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE LEPTOSPIROSIS (WEIL'S DISEASE). MANY DOCTORS WILL NOT ASSOCIATE THE FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS WITH THE DISEASE - SO YOU MUST MAKE SURE YOU TELL THEM WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING.

IF UNTREATED LEPTOSPIROSIS IS SERIOUS AND OFTEN FATAL



Membership No. M40300918

INFORMATION

LEPTOSPIROSIS (WEIL'S DISEASE)

WEIL'S DISEASE (LEPTOSPIROSIS)

Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis) resembles a cold or flu infection in the initial stages. The incubation period is from 4 - 10 days, depending on the method of infection and your own health. Not all exposed persons will catch the disease.

Early Symptoms:

Fever, chills, muscular aches and pains, loss of appetite and nausea when laying down.

Later Symptoms :

Bruising of the skin, anaemia, sore eyes, nose bleeds and jaundice.

The fever lasts for approximately five days then a significant deterioration follows.

If untreated, Leptospirosis is serious and is often FATAL

Treatment with antibiotics is only effective if started rapidly after symptoms develop. Penicillin is the drug of choice but must be given within four days to be of any value to the patient.

Suspected cases must be sent without delay to hospital for investigation and treatment, and the doctors must be told that there has been contact with rats, sewerage or contaminated water.

Your work may involve contact with sewerage or water which may have been contaminated by rats. Contaminated water does not have to smell or look like sewerage to be infected. If rats have been sighted in or around a body of water then exposure to that water should be avoided.

Rats excrete a germ in their urine which can enter your body through any scratch, cut or nick in your skin. The germ can also enter your body through the eyes and lips, so avoid splashing contaminated water onto your face.

PRECAUTIONS

1. Wear gloves and waders when working on sewers and polluted ditches.
2. Avoid getting cuts or scratches.
3. If you get a cut or scratch, take all reasonable steps to avoid immersing it in polluted water.
4. Wash thoroughly after work. Wash again before eating.
5. Do not eat, drink or smoke while you are working on or near sewers, ditches or contaminated water. Wash thoroughly before you eat, drink or smoke.
6. If you develop an illness which starts like a severe flu, consult your doctor and show him this leaflet. Delays may be dangerous.