



COURSE: INFORMATION/ASSESSMENT FOR WEIL'S DISEASE (LEPTOSPIROSIS)

David Weston, Retired Secretary of Enmore Park GC, provides information about the risks of Weil's Disease.

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Weil's Disease is an infection carried in rat's urine, which may contaminate water and banks of lakes, ponds and rivers. The disease is notifiable and requires hospital treatment. Symptoms start 3 to 19 days after exposure to contamination. If there is a possibility that the employee has been working near to possible contamination, he or she should see a doctor and request a blood test.

Initial Symptoms:

- ☞ Similar to a cold or flu
- ☞ Fever, muscular aches and pains, loss of appetite, nausea when lying down

Secondary Symptoms:

- ☞ Bruising of the skin, sore eyes, nose bleeds, jaundice
- ☞ After approx. five days of fever there is a rapid deterioration

If left untreated Weil's Disease is serious and can be fatal

Precautions

- ☞ Record any sightings of the presence of rats on the premises.
- ☞ Cover all scratches, cuts, sores and breaks in the skin with waterproof plasters if working close to a watercourse.
- ☞ Disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside, as soon as possible.
- ☞ Wear gloves
- ☞ Wash hands before ingesting food.
- ☞ Do not touch any dead animal with bare hands, especially rats.
- ☞ Never put hand to mouth if the hand has been immersed in river water

If the above precautions are followed the risk is low

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