

EMPLOYEES NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

DOCTORS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO: _____



LEPTOSPIROSIS

There is a danger that people working with sewage or polluted water may contract a disease called Leptospirosis, (commonly called Weils Disease), which is a form of jaundice that affects the kidneys and liver.

The infection, which is transmitted to humans by contact with urine of infected rats, can enter the body through the mouth, the nose, the eye or through cuts and abrasions in the skin. Good hygiene procedures must be followed, with all cuts or abrasions being covered with appropriate dressings, to minimise the risk of infection.

The early symptoms of the disease are like those of Influenza and this can delay correct diagnosis. Whenever you visit your Doctor you should show him / her this card so that he / she can, if necessary, arrange for further medical tests.

Your Doctor can obtain information from:

Leptospirosis Reference Unit
Public Health Laboratory
County Hospital
Hereford
HR1 2ER

Telephone: 01432 355444



**PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN TO
REDUCE THE RISK OF LEPTOSPIROSIS**

1. Cover any cuts or abrasions sustained before entry with a waterproof dressing. If you damage the skin, in any way, whilst working you must immediately wash the wound thoroughly and cover with a waterproof dressing.
2. Wear protective clothing when there is a danger of coming into contact with polluted water or sewage. Any protective clothing that becomes wet must be dried as soon as possible as there is still a danger of infection.
3. Always thoroughly wash your hands, forearms and face before eating, drinking or smoking.
4. If you sustain any injury that is liable to lead to infection then you must see your doctor immediately
5. Report any accidents, however trivial, in the company accident book.
6. Get rid of rats and do not touch them with unprotected hands.



**INSTRUCTIONS TO PEOPLE WHO MAY
BECOME INFECTED**

Report any illness to your doctor and show this card. Leptospirosis is much less severe if treated promptly. If the doctor decides you have leptospirosis your employer must report it to the HSE.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DOCTOR

Leptospirosis Ictero-Haemorrhagica or Weil's Disease generally commences as a febrile illness with varying degrees of the more characteristic features, muscular pains and tenderness, conjunctiva, haemorrhages of skin and mucous membranes, and jaundice. The urine usually contains albumin and casts and a polymorphonuclear is the rule.

Jaundice often occurs but is not to be expected during the first few days.

The initial symptoms of leptospirosis are those of influenza.

