

Outbreak of Leptospirosis

To: Vermont Health Care Providers

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- Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects people and a wide variety of domestic, companion and wild animals. People may become infected through contact of mucosal surfaces or abraded skin with water or soil contaminated with the urine of infected animals. If infected, people may or may not develop illness, and if illness does occur, symptoms commonly include sudden onset of high fever, headache, chills, myalgia, conjunctivitis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and rash, although more severe manifestations affecting one or more organ systems may also occur.
- The Vermont Department of Health has become aware of several individuals who have signs and symptoms consistent with leptospirosis. All individuals report a common history of swimming in the Strafford Pond (also known as Strafford Athletic Association Pond or SAA or Lions Pond) in Strafford, Vermont. As a precaution, the pond has been closed.
- The Health Department is conducting an investigation to identify additional cases, help confirm if the Strafford Pond is the source of exposure, and identify other potential sources of exposure.
- If the pond is found to be the source, the record rainfall is likely a contributing factor. The record rainfall may also put other ponds and sources of surface water throughout the state at risk for being contaminated and in turn put people at risk for getting this disease. **If you have patients that you suspect may have this disease, please call the Vermont Department of Health at (802) 863-7240 [1-800-640-4374 in Vermont] to report these cases and for additional information, including recommendations for testing and treatment.**

For additional information about this Advisory, please call (802) 863-7240 [1-800-640-4374 in Vermont].