

## **Leptospirosis Resources for Encampments near Harrison Street City of Berkeley**

Numerous rats and at least 2 dogs in and near Harrison Street encampments tested positive for Leptospirosis – a treatable disease that can have severe and potentially fatal impacts to people and dogs who are exposed to contaminated water.

**How Leptospirosis spreads:** This aggressive bacteria exists in the urine of infected rats and stays alive for 30 days or more in water and mud. People or animals who touch or drink contaminated water or mud are potentially exposed to the bacteria. The risk of disease is present if the contaminated water touches mucous membranes – such as eyes, nose, mouth or skin cuts.

**Symptoms and prevention:** The rats have made conditions unsafe for encampments in the area bounded by San Pablo Avenue, Gilman Street, Codornices Creek and the railroad tracks.

The City's Health Officer strongly recommends that encampment residents move out of the defined area and least 1/3 of a mile away. Moving away significantly reduces risks to you and your dogs while also allowing the City to address the rat population.

For your safety, strive to avoid taking muddy or wet possessions as they might be contaminated. Or wash them yourself using a 10:1 mixture of clean water and bleach.

Seek care from a provider (see back of this flyer) if you have any concerns. You should see a provider if you have been living in the encampments in this area and you are sick or have these flu-like symptoms:

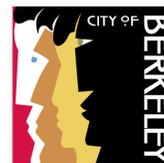
- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Red eyes
- Sore muscles

Encampment residents should take these actions however possible:

- wear protective clothing
- cover scratches or cuts with waterproof bandages
- Wash or shower after potential exposure
- Clean your wounds
- Don't touch sick or dead animals
- Consume clear, clean, drinking water

**Care, treatment and vaccine for Dogs:** Leptospirosis has killed at least 2 dogs in the encampments. Encampment residents with dogs should seek veterinary care for pet symptoms that include: fever; vomiting; jaundice; or urine that's abnormally colored or excessive in quantity.

There is effective vaccination for dogs. Come the morning of January 13 to get a vaccination voucher for your dog. (See back side for more resources.)



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Neither dogs nor people should wade in – or drink from – nearby water, mud, puddles, or Codornices Creek. Provide clean water for your pets, and keep them away from sick or dead animals.

### Leptospirosis Outreach Day: Testing, Screening & Resources Clinic

January 13, 2026

9am – 1pm

Harrison Street between 6th and 7th streets

Resources will include:

- general information and education
- distribution of a health kit
- Assessments for possible shelter
- Health screenings
- Substance abuse and mental health support
- Information, vaccine vouchers and resources to keep your pets safe

### Where to go for Medical Care

**If you have severe symptoms (shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chest pain etc):**

- call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room immediately.

**If you have an unexplained fever or flu-like illness and think you were exposed to contaminated water or soil, seek care as soon as possible using these options:**

- **If you have a Primary Care Provider:**

Call the doctor listed on your Medi-Cal card first for an urgent appointment.

- **If you do not have Primary Care Provider or are a LifeLong Patient:**

Call: Lifelong Trust Clinic: (510) 981-4100 **OR**

Visit during Drop-in Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30am -4:30pm, except Tuesday when hours are 10:00am-4:30pm  
830 University Ave, Berkeley, CA

### For dog owners – Where to go for Veterinary Care

East Bay SPCA (reduced rates for low-income clients) 8323 Baldwin Street, Oakland, CA  
94621

Phone 510-569-1606; [clinic@eastbayspca.org](mailto:clinic@eastbayspca.org)

Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m. (by appointment only)