



Office of the City Manager

**Date:** June 10, 2026

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager 

**Re:** Public Health Update Addressing Leptospirosis at Harrison Street Encampments and Clinical Guidance for City of Berkeley Medical Providers

### **Summary**

This Off Agenda Memo provides an update on the City of Berkeley Public Health Division's response to risks posed by leptospirosis, a treatable bacterial disease that is commonly carried by rats globally. In December 2026, this bacteria was confirmed in rats and two dogs living in and around encampments along Harrison Street in northwest Berkeley. Cases among people are extremely rare.

The most common way the bacteria is spread is through the urine of rats, which can be found mixed into standing water. The disease is transmitted to humans and animals when the contaminated water touches mucous membranes – such as eyes, nose, mouth, or cuts to the skin. Most people have no symptoms.

The high concentration of rats testing positive for leptospirosis in encampment conditions escalated concerns for people who were unhoused along Harrison Street. This prompted:

- outreach to increase awareness
- coordination with nonprofit health care providers
- regular trapping and testing of rats
- Cleanups of debris

Given that this is an area close to homes, businesses and parks, the City also expanded outreach in the area generally bounded by Codornices Creek, Gilman Street, San Pablo Avenue, and the railroad tracks.

There is not extensive research about leptospirosis. However, the past six months of rat testing, awareness of leptospirosis cases in animals around Alameda County, and other data has led the Health Officer to remain concerned about rat conditions at encampments, not just along Harrison Street.

**However, for the general public and the vast majority of Berkeley residents and business owners, the risk of contracting leptospirosis remains extremely low.**

As a result of this increased study, data and awareness, the Public Health Division on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, issued two documents:

- An update to the January 12, 2026, Health Alert addressing the presence of leptospirosis in rats found in the area of encampments located in the Harrison Street Corridor; and
- Technical guidance for City of Berkeley medical providers.

Concurrent with the release of these two documents, City outreach teams will disseminate flyers to all unhoused and vehicle-resident individuals within a 1.5-mile radius of the Harrison Street corridor to provide additional information on leptospirosis and the actions they can take to keep themselves safe.

The most significant change to the January 12, 2026, Health Alert includes retiring the localized "Red" and "Yellow" risk zones around Harrison Street. Rat testing in an RV used for housing that was outside the previous "yellow zone" also tested positive for leptospirosis.

Based on soil and water testing and the new human infections of leptospirosis, the public health risk is no longer described in terms of geographic boundaries but in terms of living conditions that facilitate transmission—namely, close proximity to rats, wherever they are located.

Accordingly, Berkeley Public Health and relevant staff in Public Works, Environmental Health, HHCS, the Homeless Response Team and community partners are focusing efforts on encampments and their residents through an environmental prevention strategy centered on enhanced sanitation, vector suppression, and targeted outreach.

### **Background & Operational Pivot**

In May 2026, Berkeley Public Health confirmed the first two human leptospirosis cases in over a decade. Both individuals lived together in a recreational vehicle in which they had been trapping, feeding and breeding wild rats. In addition, the vehicle was severely infested with wild rats that were not in cages. The vehicle was parked approximately one mile from Harrison Street and outside the previously marked "yellow zone." The individuals fell sick, but they did not seek medical care for weeks and possibly months.

Berkeley Fire transported the couple to a local hospital and Berkeley Police submitted a report to Alameda County Adult Protective Services.

The City coordinated with Alameda County Vector Control, which laid traps in the vehicle and in the immediate vicinity. The City kept the vehicle sealed, opening it only

for vector control to remove traps with dead rats. After repeating this process over several days to ensure that no more rats were inside, the vehicle was towed and destroyed.

One patient tragically passed away shortly after hospitalization, while the second recovered after receiving treatment.

Continuous trapping and testing by Alameda County Vector Control revealed a persistently high prevalence of leptospirosis in wild rats around the RV, exceeding expected urban baselines. Because of this death, Public Health has issued clinical guidance to medical providers to ensure that individuals with exposure to rats are tested and treated for leptospirosis.

### **Community Guidance**

With the release of the update to the January 12, 2026 Health Alert and guidance to medical providers, the Public Health Division would like to reinforce the following guidance to the Berkeley community:

- **Public Risk is Low:** The general risk to the public remains extremely low. The bacteria associated with leptospirosis cannot survive in typical dry, clean residential or commercial properties. It requires constant moisture, standing water, or heavy rodent infestations to pose a threat.
- **Questions on Human Cases and Death:** The death was an extreme situation as both individuals were living in a severely rat-infested RV about one mile away from the Harrison Street encampment. Vector Control removed nearly 200 rats from the RV before the City was able to tow and have the vehicle destroyed.
- **No Community Outbreak:** There is no person-to-person transmission of leptospirosis. At the Harrison Street encampment, there have been no human cases, and there is no evidence of transmission from rats near Harrison Street to dogs.
- **Do Not Exterminate Privately:** If concerned about wild rats, do not attempt to poison or exterminate the rodents without the assistance of professional or regional vector services. Commercial poisons cause infected rats to wander into open areas before dying, creating carcasses that carry secondary toxic chemical residues that are fatal to domestic pets and native predatory wildlife (hawks, owls, and foxes). Professional pest control or regional vector services should handle large scale extermination.
- **Leptospirosis testing mud or water surrounding the Harrison Street encampments and Codornices Creek came back negative.** Researchers from UC Davis took water and mud samples from the Harrison Encampment area and Codornices Creek, with heavy rat activity present. All results were negative for

leptospirosis. The leptospirosis bacteria is easily killed by sunlight and lack of moisture.

- **Standard Preventative Hygiene:** If there are signs of rodents, individuals should maintain standard pest hygiene: keep all household pet food and drinking water in secure, closed containers, keep trash bins tightly covered, wear protective footwear near standing outdoor water, and cover any open cuts or skin abrasions with waterproof bandages.
- **Concerns about Pets:** Discuss any concerns with a veterinarian. The leptospirosis vaccine for dogs is recommended nationally given the widespread presence of the bacteria. Cats are not at risk.
- **Leptospirosis is common in urban areas of the United States.** The testing rates observed near Harrison Street encampments and the infested RV are higher than what is common. Property owners and tenants should take precautions whenever rats are present. Testing for the presence of leptospirosis will continue as remediation efforts are implemented and the City will keep the community informed of any changes.

## **Direct Contact Information & Referral Protocol**

**For General Questions and Tips:** Refer constituents to the City of Berkeley Leptospirosis Information Line at **(510) 981-5460** or via email at [leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov).

**For Vector Control and Trapping Requests:** Refer constituents directly to Alameda County Vector Control Services at **(510) 567-6800**.

**Medical Questions:** All medical questions should be redirected to the constituent's medical provider.

**For Uninsured Medical Care Access:** Individuals without a primary care provider may contact the LifeLong Trust Health Center at **(510) 486-3463** (located at 830 University Ave) for screening and treatment if they are present with high fever, myalgias, or chills following rodent exposure.

Attachments:

1. Public Health Update: Addressing Leptospirosis at Harrison Street Encampments
2. Health Advisory: Clinical Guidance for City of Berkeley Medical Providers

cc: David White, Deputy City Manager  
Scott M. Gilman, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services  
Wahid Amiri, Interim Director, Public Works  
Farimah Brown, City Attorney  
Matthai Chakko, Communications Director/ Assistant to the City Manager  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager/ Neighborhood Services  
Jenny Wong, City Auditor



Health, Housing, and Community Services Department

Noemi Doohan, MD, PhD, MPH  
Public Health Officer – Director

Scott Gilman  
HHCS Director

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## CITY OF BERKELEY PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### Addressing Leptospirosis at Harrison Street Encampment

June 10, 2026

**ALERT** – conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**ADVISORY** – provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**UPDATE** – provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

#### I. KEY MESSAGES

- **Risk to the General Public Remains Extremely Low:** as an update to the [January 12, 2026, Health Alert](#)<sup>1</sup>, risk of contracting leptospirosis from rats remains very low for the vast majority of Berkeley residents and business owners.
- **Risk to people living in encampments, RVs, or other locations with a high burden of rats infected with Leptospirosis:** people who have had exposure to rats and show symptoms of illnesses should seek medical care and treatment quickly.
- **The best way to protect dogs** Vaccination for dogs against Leptospirosis is considered a core annual vaccine by the Animal Hospital Association – a respected industry standard
- **Harrison Street Status & Mitigation Data:** No human cases have been associated with encampments on and around Harrison Street, and no new canine infections have been reported to public health since the first two in late 2025.
- **Recent Human Cases Identified:** Two human Leptospirosis cases were identified in May 2026 in the City of Berkeley. Both individuals had been living in a severely rat-infested RV about one mile from the Harrison Street encampment. Tragically, one of the patients died and one recovered after a lengthy

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<sup>1</sup> [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/January\\_12%2C\\_2026\\_Lepto\\_Health\\_Alert\\_Final.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/January_12%2C_2026_Lepto_Health_Alert_Final.pdf)

hospitalization. Both patients had delayed access to medical care which is thought to have contributed to the severity of their disease. These are the first human cases of Leptospirosis in Berkeley in more than a decade. These human cases highlight the potentially serious health risk to humans living in environments with rat infestations. Exposure to rats infected with Leptospirosis poses a potentially serious health risk to humans and dogs.

- **Based on environmental and clinical data, the City is retiring the Harrison street encampment geographic risk zones ("Red" and "Yellow" zones)** established in this [January 12<sup>th</sup> Public Health Alert](#). Given this new evidence that high-Leptospirosis-positive rat populations are not limited to the Harrison Corridor, the city is now shifting to a broader citywide prevention strategy focused on high-risk environments including RVs and encampments with rat infestations. The Berkeley Public Health response is pivoting away from localized geographic containment to citywide sanitation, vector suppression, and targeted hygiene outreach for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, vehicle residency or who are otherwise living in heavily rodent infested environments.
- **Vector Control, in conjunction with Commercial Pest Control services, should exterminate rats in areas with a high rate of Leptospirosis in rats.** The general public should not attempt to exterminate rats: If the public suspects rat infestation in an area with risk of Leptospirosis, they should contact their pest control vendor or Alameda County Vector Control Services at (510) 567-6800.
- **What has the City of Berkeley done to mitigate the risk of Leptospirosis in humans and dogs at the Harrison Street encampment?**
  - Environmental testing conducted by UC Davis researchers in February 2026 detected no Leptospirosis in Codornices Creek. A total of 11 water samples and 11 mud samples were collected from the creek.
  - 14 Dogs at the Harrison street encampment were tested by UC Davis researchers and all were negative for Leptospirosis. Owners were also offered free vaccination to protect their dogs against future exposure to Leptospirosis.
  - Debris Removal: The City has removed 40 tons of garbage since February 2026 from the Harrison Street encampment in an attempt to minimize environmental conditions that attract rats.
  - Direct Community Outreach: Public health staff conducted 5 educational outreach events directly with occupants of the Harrison Street encampment to provide housing resources, clean clothing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and clear guidance on minimizing exposure risks. Ongoing efforts, including distribution of educational material directly to homeless individuals, are underway (see attached informational flyer).
  - **Ongoing Surveillance:** The City of Berkeley, in partnership with Alameda County Vector Control, have been continuously trapping and testing rats for Leptospirosis at the Harrison street encampment and in the area where the RV was parked with the two human cases (1 mile from Harrison Street encampment). This new testing has continued to show a high prevalence of Leptospirosis in the rats tested, which is above expected baseline levels in California urban rat populations.

## **Public Health Contact Information**

For community questions on leptospirosis please contact the City of Berkeley Lepto Information Line: (510) 981-5460 or Email: [leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov).

To request Vector Control Services please contact Alameda County Vector Control Services. (510) 567-6800.



June 10, 2026

## RV and Encampment Occupants: Rat Advisory

*Keep food and water in closed containers; avoid exposure to wild rats; seek treatment quickly*

Wild rats carry a variety of diseases. People and dogs can get infected through contact with wild rats and their urine, feces, saliva, bites or scratches. Rats can also carry ticks, mites, or fleas that can spread diseases. Do not poison rats as they often wander into open areas before dying. These Carcasses can be deadly to pets or wildlife.

Rat-borne diseases are monitored around encampments in the City of Berkeley by Alameda County Vector Control and include the following:

- Leptospirosis
- Flea borne typhus
- Salmonellosis

### TAKE STEPS TO LOWER RISK

The best way to prevent transmission of disease by rats in your area is to:

- Keep food and water in closed containers
- Minimize trash and items that could create rat nests
- Avoid exposure to rats or their body fluids

### IF YOU DO NOT FEEL WELL, SEEK TREATMENT QUICKLY

If you have been around or in contact with rats AND you feel sick, get medical help quickly and inform your medical provider that you have been exposed to wild rats.

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

- Call: Berkeley Trust Health Center (510) 486-3463
- Operating Hours:
  - Monday-Friday 8:30am -4:30pm, except Tuesday when hours are 10:00am-4:30pm
  - 830 University Ave, Berkeley, CA (Near the corner of University Ave and Sixth Street)

For questions contact the City of Berkeley Lepto information line: (510) 981-5460

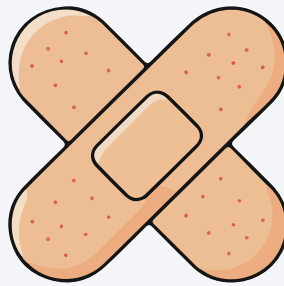


# Leptospirosis: Recommendations for the general public

Leptospirosis is a sickness caused by bacteria that lives in water that can spread to people and dogs. You can get it from water, dirt, or food that was infected by the urine of infected rats or dogs



**Wear protective clothing**



**Cover scratches or cuts with waterproof bandages**



**Don't wade or swim in potentially contaminated water**



**Wash or shower after potential exposure**



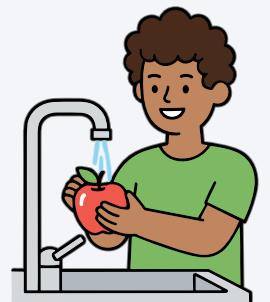
**Clean your wounds**



**Don't touch sick or dead animals**



**Consume clear, clean, drinking-water**



**Wash fruits and vegetables picked from gardens or farms in this area**

Leptospirosis is treatable. The disease is transmitted to humans and animals when the contaminated water touches mucous membranes – such as eyes, nose, mouth, or cuts to the skin. Most people have no symptoms. However, if you think you were exposed in this area and have flu-like symptoms – fever, chills, headache, red eyes, and muscle aches – contact your primary care provider, such as the one listed on your Medi-Cal card for an urgent appointment.

If you do not have a medical provider, contact Lifelong Trust Health Center for screening and treatment

830 University Ave., Berkeley, CA 94710

Berkeley Public Health Leptospirosis voicemail to leave tips, questions: 510.981.5460, [leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov)

Updated June 5, 2026



Health, Housing, and Community Services Department

Noemi Doohan, MD, PhD, MPH  
Public Health Officer

Scott Gilman  
HHCS Director

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## HEALTH ADVISORY

### Leptospirosis — Clinical Guidance for City of Berkeley Medical Providers

June 10, 2026

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#### Key messages

- This advisory updates and adds clinical guidance to the City of Berkeley Public Health Division [Health Alert dated January 12, 2026](#).<sup>1</sup> This January 12th alert was focused on communicating with the general public regarding the Harrison street encampment and cases of canine Leptospirosis there. Now, updates have been included to this Alert describing efforts to mitigate the rat population and provide guidance to the dog and human populations at that encampment and surrounding neighborhood.
- In May 2026, the first two known cases of Leptospirosis in humans in the City of Berkeley in over a decade were identified.
- The two patients had contact with a large number of rats in an RV where they resided. Delayed access to medical care likely contributed to death in one of the two patients. This RV was located approximately one mile from the Harrison street encampment, where there has been documented Leptospirosis in rats and associated illness in dogs.
- If providers encounter patients presenting with exposure to rats and symptoms consistent with Leptospirosis, please consider commercial lab testing for Leptospirosis and antibiotic treatment including possible hospital level care as described in this advisory. Signs and symptoms of Leptospirosis include fever

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<sup>1</sup> [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/January\\_12%2C\\_2026\\_Lepto\\_Health\\_Alert\\_Final.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/January_12%2C_2026_Lepto_Health_Alert_Final.pdf)

and chills, headache, myalgias, conjunctivitis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, cough and jaundice.

- The likely source of Leptospirosis for these two human cases was direct exposure to infected rats, and their urine. There is no human-to-human spread of this disease.
- Educating the community is an important aspect of this response. Please find attached an educational flyer for individuals living in conditions with rat exposure.

Attachments: Lepto Educational Flyer English and Spanish

### **Background**

Leptospirosis is a serious but uncommon bacterial infection in the United States, where approximately 100–150 cases are reported annually. The primary reservoir for this disease is rats. There is no known risk of human-to-human transmission. It is caused by spirochete bacteria of the genus *Leptospira*, with more than 250 pathogenic serovars. Worldwide, an estimated 1 million cases and 60,000 deaths occur annually, predominantly in tropical regions. In California, leptospirosis is rare. Leptospirosis most often spreads through contact with rats or with soil or water that has been contaminated with the urine of infected animals such as rodents, dogs, livestock, and other wildlife. Leptospire can enter the body through cuts, scrapes, or mucous membranes.

In May 2026, the City of Berkeley Public Health Division confirmed two cases of leptospirosis in humans. These are the first known human cases in the City of Berkeley in over a decade. Both individuals had been living in an enclosed, heavily rat-infested RV. After being transported by ambulance to the hospital, one patient died from severe Leptospirosis (likely Weil's disease); the second has recovered. The RV where these patients were living has been towed and destroyed and the rats exterminated. This advisory is intended to support early recognition, testing, and treatment of Leptospirosis.

### **Transmission**

**High-risk activities** include wading or swimming in contaminated water, direct contact with rodents or their urine or environments, and activities that may cause skin abrasions in the setting of exposure to soil or water where there are rat infestations.

Leptospirosis does **not** spread person-to-person and is **not** airborne.

### **When to Suspect Leptospirosis — High-Risk Exposures**

Maintain heightened clinical suspicion in patients with compatible symptoms and any of the following:

- People experiencing homelessness (PEH) living in tents, RVs, or settings with known or suspected rat infestation or where sanitation is lacking;
- Anyone reporting close contact with rats, rodents, or rodent-infested environments;
- Mucous membrane or open skin exposure to potentially contaminated water, mud, puddles, or standing water

## **Clinical Presentation**

**Incubation period:** 2–30 days; most cases present 5–14 days after exposure. Most infections are asymptomatic or mild. Approximately 10% of acute infections progress to severe, potentially fatal illness. Illness may be **biphasic** — a patient may briefly improve before deteriorating significantly.

<b>Common Symptoms</b>	<b>Severe Leptospirosis (which can include Weil's disease)</b>
Fever and chills	Acute kidney injury or oliguria
Severe headache	Jaundice with markedly elevated bilirubin but only mildly elevated transaminases*
Myalgias, especially calf and lower back pain	Pulmonary hemorrhage or respiratory failure
Conjunctival suffusion (without discharge)	Coagulopathy / hemorrhage
Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain	Aseptic meningitis or cardiac arrhythmias
Cough	Multi-organ failure (5–10% of cases)
Jaundice	
Rash (variable)	

**\* Key diagnostic clue:** *The liver function test results associated with Weil's disease differ from acetaminophen toxicity and viral hepatitis, where transaminases predominate. Do not let an alternative diagnosis prevent testing when exposure history is present.*

**Case fatality rate:** 5–15% in severe illness. Among patients with severe pulmonary hemorrhagic syndrome, case fatality can exceed 50%.

## **Laboratory Testing**

All *Leptospirosis* testing needed for clinical diagnosis is available through commercial labs. **Do not wait for results before initiating treatment when clinical suspicion is high.** Submit as many specimen types as possible. A negative PCR does not completely rule out *Leptospirosis* due to the transient presence of *Leptospira* bacteria in body fluids. If *Leptospirosis* is diagnosed, public health will work with the commercial lab to arrange additional testing to assist with public health investigations.

<b>Phase of Illness</b>	<b>Recommended Specimens</b>	<b>Tests</b>
First week of illness (acute)	Whole blood and serum	PCR (whole blood, ideal in first 4 days) IgM serology (ELISA, ImmunoDOT, lateral flow) for screening only*
After first week (convalescent)	Serum and urine	PCR (urine) IgM serology MAT (microscopic agglutination test)
Confirmatory (any phase)	Acute + convalescent serum (7–14 days apart) Fresh frozen kidney/liver (deceased patients) CSF if meningitis suspected	

**\* IgM assays are screening tests only and must be confirmed by MAT or PCR.** *Antibodies develop 3–10 days after symptom onset. Please note negative serology in the first week does not rule out disease.*

## **Treatment**

Early testing and treatment, including possible need for hospital level care, is the most important factor in preventing severe disease and death. Collect specimens for testing in a commercial lab and **initiate antibiotics immediately when Leptospirosis is clinically suspected—do not wait for laboratory confirmation.**

<b>Severity</b>	<b>Drug of Choice</b>	<b>Alternatives</b>
Mild to Moderate	Doxycycline 100 mg PO twice daily × 7 days	Azithromycin 500 mg PO daily × 3 days Amoxicillin 500 mg PO q6h × 7 days Ampicillin 500–750 mg PO q6h × 7 days
Severe (Weil's disease)	IV Penicillin G 1.5 million units IV q6h	Ceftriaxone 1 g IV q24h

Full CDC treatment guidance and CDC Clinician Fact Sheet:  
[cdc.gov/leptospirosis/pdf/fs-leptospirosis-clinicians-eng-508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/pdf/fs-leptospirosis-clinicians-eng-508.pdf)

CDC Clinical Overview for Providers: [cdc.gov/leptospirosis/hcp/clinical-overview/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/hcp/clinical-overview/index.html)

## **Surveillance and Reporting**

- **Leptospirosis is a public health (Title 17) notifiable disease.**
- Please report all confirmed and probable human cases to the City of Berkeley Communicable Disease Program.

Phone: (510) 981-5292, Monday–Friday 9:00am–5:00pm

- Fax: (510) 981-5345
- Email: [COBCD@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:COBCD@berkeleyca.gov)

## **Actions Requested of City of Berkeley Providers Regarding Human Cases of Leptospirosis**

- **Suspect Leptospirosis** in any patient with compatible symptoms and a history of exposure to rats, rodent-infested environments, or potentially contaminated water or soil.
- **Test early** using PCR and serology through commercial labs. Submit multiple specimen types.
- **Treat empirically** when clinical suspicion is high — do not await confirmatory results.

**Issued by the City of Berkeley Public Health Division**

**Noemi Doohan, MD, PhD, MPH** — Public Health Officer-Director, City of Berkeley



June 10, 2026

## RV and Encampment Occupants: Rat Advisory

*Keep food and water in closed containers; avoid exposure to wild rats; seek treatment quickly*

Wild rats carry a variety of diseases. People and dogs can get infected through contact with wild rats and their urine, feces, saliva, bites or scratches. Rats can also carry ticks, mites, or fleas that can spread diseases. Do not poison rats as they often wander into open areas before dying. These Carcasses can be deadly to pets or wildlife.

Rat-borne diseases are monitored around encampments in the City of Berkeley by Alameda County Vector Control and include the following:

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- Flea borne typhus
- Salmonellosis

### TAKE STEPS TO LOWER RISK

The best way to prevent transmission of disease by rats in your area is to:

- Keep food and water in closed containers
- Minimize trash and items that could create rat nests
- Avoid exposure to rats or their body fluids

### IF YOU DO NOT FEEL WELL, SEEK TREATMENT QUICKLY

If you have been around or in contact with rats AND you feel sick, get medical help quickly and inform your medical provider that you have been exposed to wild rats.

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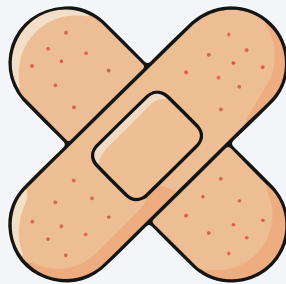
# Leptospirosis: Recommendations for the general public in northwest Berkeley

Guidance for people with access to indoor shelter, running water, secure garbage and safe food storage who also live or work in the area generally bounded by Codornices Creek, Gilman Street, San Pablo Avenue and the railroad tracks

Leptospirosis is a sickness caused by bacteria that lives in water that can spread to people and dogs. You can get it from water, dirt, or food that was infected by the urine of infected rats or dogs



**Wear protective clothing**



**Cover scratches or cuts with waterproof bandages**



**Don't wade or swim in potentially contaminated water**



**Wash or shower after potential exposure**



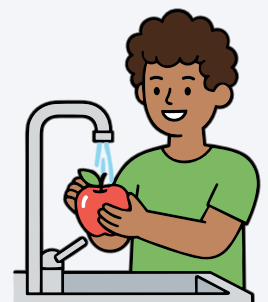
**Clean your wounds**



**Don't touch sick or dead animals**



**Consume clear, clean, drinking-water**



**Wash fruits and vegetables picked from gardens or farms in this area**

Leptospirosis is treatable. The disease is transmitted to humans and animals when the contaminated water touches mucous membranes – such as eyes, nose, mouth, or cuts to the skin. Most people have no symptoms. However, if you think you were exposed in this area and have flu-like symptoms – fever, chills, headache, red eyes, and muscle aches – contact your primary care provider, such as the one listed on your Medi-Cal card for an urgent appointment.

If you do not have a medical provider, contact Lifelong Trust Health Center for screening and treatment

830 University Ave., Berkeley, CA 94710

Berkeley Public Health Leptospirosis voicemail to leave tips, questions: 510.981.5460, [leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov)

Updated June 3, 2026



# Leptospirosis Pet Owner Safety Guide

**LEPTOSPIROSIS BACTERIA LIVES IN WATER CONTAMINATED BY THE URINE OF RATS. INFECTION OCCURS THROUGH MUCOUS MEMBRANES, SUCH AS THE NOSE, MOUTH, EYES, OR OPEN WOUNDS.**

## PREVENT THE SPREAD

- **WASH HANDS AFTER TOUCHING PETS OR THEIR THINGS.**
- **NO FACE LICKING.**
- **USE ANTIBACTERIAL SPRAYS OR WIPES.**
- **SUNLIGHT KILLS GERMS—KEEP LIVING SPACE CLEAR OF WET DEBRIS.**



- **VACCINATE DOGS (4-WAY LEPTO).**
- **CONTROL RODENTS—SEAL TRASH, REMOVE FOOD BOWLS.**
- **GIVE FRESH WATER ONLY—NO PUDDLES OR CREEKS.**



## IF YOUR PET HAS LEPTO

- **GIVE ALL MEDICINE AS PRESCRIBED.**
- **WEAR GLOVES WHEN CLEANING PEE.**
- **PICK A SUNNY POTTY SPOT AWAY FROM GARDENS AND PUDDLES.**
- **NO POWER WASHING—USE GENTLE RINSE AFTER DISINFECTING.**
- **WASH BEDDING IN HOT WATER WITH DETERGENT AND BLEACH.**
- **IF PREGNANT OR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED, AVOID CLEANING UP AFTER A SICK PET FOR 2 WEEKS.**



**Stay Safe. Protect Your Pets. Protect Your Family.**



10 de junio de 2026

## Ocupantes de viviendas recreativas (RV) y campamentos: Advertencia sobre ratas

Mantenga los alimentos y el agua en recipientes cerrados; evite la exposición a las ratas silvestres; busque tratamiento rápidamente.

Las ratas silvestres portan una variedad de enfermedades. Las personas y los perros pueden infectarse a través del contacto con las ratas silvestres y su orina, heces, saliva, mordeduras o arañazos. Las ratas también pueden portar garrapatas, ácaros o pulgas que pueden propagar enfermedades. No envenene a las ratas, ya que a menudo deambulan por áreas abiertas antes de morir. Estos cadáveres pueden ser mortales para las mascotas o la fauna silvestre.

Las enfermedades transmitidas por ratas son monitoreadas alrededor de los campamentos en la Ciudad de Berkeley por el Control de Vectores del Condado de Alameda e incluyen las siguientes:

- Leptospirosis
- Tifus transmitido por pulgas
- Salmonelosis

## TOMAR LAS SIGUIENTES MEDIDAS PARA REDUCIR EL RIESGO

La mejor manera de prevenir la transmisión de enfermedades a través de las ratas en su área es

- Mantener los alimentos y el agua en recipientes cerrados
- Evitar el acumulamiento de basura y los objetos que puedan crear nidos de ratas
- Evite contacto con las ratas silvestres y su orina o heces

## SI NO SE SIENTE BIEN, BUSQUE TRATAMIENTO RAPIDAMENTE

Si ha estado cerca o en contacto con ratas Y se siente enfermo, busque ayuda médica rápidamente e informe a su médico de cabecera que ha estado expuesto a ratas silvestres.

Si no tiene un médico de cabecera o si es paciente de LifeLong Mendical Care Patient:

- Llame: Berkeley Trust Health Center (510) 486-3463
- Horario de Atención:
  - Lunes-viernes 8:30am -4:30pm, **excepto los martes** que las horas de atención son de 10:00am-4:30pm
  - 830 University Ave, Berkeley, CA (cerca a la esquina de University Ave and Sixth Street)

Si tiene preguntas, comuníquese con la línea de información sobre Leptospirosis de la Ciudad de Berkeley: (510) 981-5460



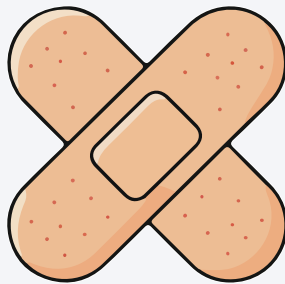
# Leptospirosis: Recomendaciones para el público general en el noroeste de Berkeley

Guía para personas que viven, trabajan o tienen acceso a refugio interior en el área delimitada generalmente por Codornices Creek, Gilman Street, San Pablo Avenue y las vías del tren y tienen acceso a agua potable, recolección de basura regular y almacenamiento seguro de alimentos.

La leptospirosis es una enfermedad causada por bacterias que viven en el agua y que puede contagiarse a personas y perros. Se puede contraer a través del agua, lodo o los alimentos contaminados por la orina de ratas o perros infectados.



Vista ropa protectora.



Cubra rasguños o cortes con vendajes impermeables.



No camine ni nade en agua que podría estar contaminada.



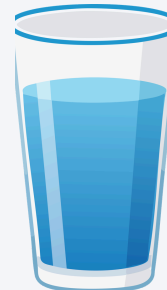
Lávese las manos o báñese tras un posible contagio.



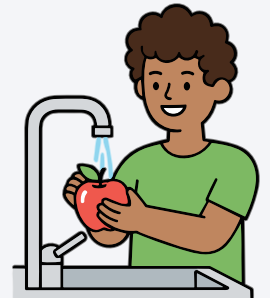
Limpie sus lesiones o rasguños



No toque a los animales que estén enfermos o muertos.



Beba agua potable limpia y transparente.



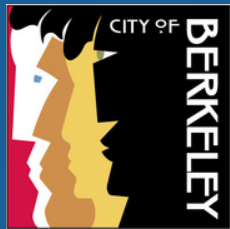
Lave las frutas y verduras cosechadas de huertos o granjas de esta zona.

La leptospirosis es una enfermedad tratable. Se transmite a humanos y animales cuando el agua contaminada entra en contacto con las membranas mucosas, como los ojos, la nariz, la boca, cortes o rasguños en la piel. La mayoría de las personas no presentan síntomas. Sin embargo, si sospecha haber estado expuesto en esta área y tiene síntomas similares a los de la gripe (fiebre, escalofríos, dolor de cabeza, ojos rojos y dolores musculares), comuníquese con su médico de cabecera o plan de seguro médico como el que aparece en su tarjeta de Medi-Cal para programar una cita urgente.

Si no tiene seguro médico o médico de cabecera, comuníquese con el Centro de Salud Lifelong Trust para evaluación y tratamiento. El centro está ubicado en la University Avenue 830, Berkeley, CA 94710

Para dejar alertas o pedir más información sobre leptospirosis deje un mensaje de voz en la línea directa de la oficina de Salud Pública de Berkeley llamando a 510.981.5460 o por correo electrónico [leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:leptoinformation@berkeleyca.gov)

Actualizado el 3 de junio de 2026



# Leptospirosis

## Guía de seguridad para dueños de mascotas



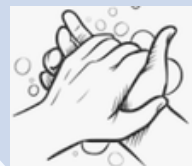
- **VACUNE A SU PERRO (LEPTO 4 VARIANTES).**
- **CONTROLE LOS ROEDORES: SELLE LOS BASUREROS Y RETIRE LOS PLATOS DE COMIDA.**
- **DE A SU MASCOTA AGUA LIMPIA. NO PERMITA QUE TOME AGUA DE CHARCOS O RIACHUELOS.**



**LAS BACTERIA DE LA LEPTOSPIROSIS VIVEN EN AGUA CONTAMINADA POR LA ORINA DE LAS RATAS. LA INFECCIÓN OCURRE A TRAVÉS DE LAS MEMBRANAS MUCOSAS, COMO LA NARIZ, LA BOCA, LOS OJOS O HERIDAS ABIERTAS.**

### EVITAR LA PROPAGACIÓN

- **LÁVESE LAS MANOS DESPUES DE TOCAR A LAS MASCOTAS O SUS COSAS (JUGUETES, COBIJAS, ETC.)**
- **EVITE QUE SU MASCOTA LE LAMA LA CARA.**
- **USE AEROSOLIOS O TOALLITAS DESINFECTANTES ANTIBACTERIANAS.**
- **LA LUZ DEL SOL MATA LOS GÉRMENES; MANTENGA EL ENTORNO LIBRE DE DESECHOS HÚMEDOS.**



### SI SU MASCOTA SE CONTAGIA DE LEPTOSPIROSIS

- **DE A SU MASCOTA TODOS LOS REMEDIOS SIGUIENDO LAS INSTRUCCIONES EN LA RECETA.**
- **USE GUANTES AL LIMPIAR LA ORINA.**
- **ELIJA UN LUGAR SOLEADO PARA QUE SU MASCOTA HAGA SUS NECESIDADES, ALEJADO DE JARDINES Y CHARCOS.**
- **NO USE LAVADORAS A PRESIÓN: USE UN ENJUAGUE SUAVE DESPUÉS DE DESINFECTAR EL ÁREA.**
- **LAVE COBIJAS CON AGUA CALIENTE, DETERGENTE Y LEJÍA/CLORO.**
- **SI ESTA EMBARAZADA O INMUNOCOMPROMETIDO, EVITE LIMPIAR LOS DESECHOS DE UNA MASCOTA ENFERMA DURANTE DE 2 SEMANAS.**

**Manténgase saludable . Cuide a sus mascotas. Cuide a su familia.**