



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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SECOND MANOA LEPTOSPIROSIS CASE INVESTIGATED

Patient fully recovered

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health is investigating a possible second case of leptospirosis associated with the October 30th flooding in Manoa. The individual who participated in cleanup efforts was seen at an area emergency department but was not hospitalized.

“The incubation period for leptospirosis is between three and 30 days,” said Paul Effler, M.D. State Epidemiologist, Hawaii State Department of Health. “Since we are now outside that time period, we don’t expect new cases stemming from the Manoa flooding.”

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that is primarily carried by rats and mice, although dogs, pigs, cattle and horses can also become infected. The disease is generally transmitted to humans by exposure to fresh water that is contaminated with urine from infected animals. Infection can take place when contaminated water enters the body through the mouth, nose, eyes or open wounds.

Individuals who develop flu-like symptoms (high fever, severe headaches, muscle aches, nausea and vomiting) and have had fresh water, mud or animal exposure during the preceding 30 days, **should immediately see a physician** and inform the doctor of any environmental exposures and skin wounds.

(more)

To reduce the risk of contracting leptospirosis:

- Do not swim, wade or play in freshwater or mud when you have cuts or abrasions.
- When swimming, do not place your head underwater.
- Do not drink stream water, without boiling or chemically treating it first.
- Keep water catchment collection areas free from overhanging branches and prevent access to these areas by animals.
- Drain potentially contaminated areas of standing water.
- Control rats, mice and mongooses around the home and at work sites. (Call the Department of Health Vector Control Branch on each island for advice.)
- Vaccinate pets and farm animals.

Known exposure sites and all state and county parks that have fresh water streams or ponds are regularly posted with leptospirosis warning signs. Residents and visitors should use additional caution when coming in contact with fresh water or mud.

For more information on leptospirosis visit, www.hawaii.gov/health .

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