

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	NC DISEASE CODE	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
LEPTOSPIROSIS	20	<i>Leptospira interrogans</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Leptospirosis in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Leptospirosis in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 351 - 357. • Print and review reporting forms. <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Leptospirosis (DHHS/EPI #20)</i></p>	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s) and discharge summary). • Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. 	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. • Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated. 	
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria. 	
IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES		
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review clinical documentation and interview patient or other knowledgeable person regarding recent travel history and potential source(s) of exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ recreational water ○ pets, livestock, and other wild or domestic animals ○ wet soils or flooded conditions ○ animal excreta ○ rodent contaminated food products • If source of exposure is suspected to be livestock the North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA) must be notified. The county agricultural extension agent may be an additional resource to consider. The state public health veterinarian can assist with contacting these agencies (919) 733-3419. 	

<p>IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the CDC website www.cdc.gov to teach at risk people about the disease. • CD nurses should work with their local health director, environmental health specialist and NCDA to identify infected livestock and contaminated waters and to restrict access of livestock to recreational waters if indicated. • Implement rodent control measures if necessary. • Consider chemoprophylaxis where contact with potentially contaminated sources is unavoidable such as in flood recovery operations.
<p>REPORTING INVESTIGATION</p>	
<p>REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. • Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. • Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record.
<p>CASE FINDING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms of illness. • Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation.
<p>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</p>	
<p>STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If sending a specimen to the SLPH for confirmatory testing, specify on the Special Bacteriology form DHHS T806 to test for <i>L. interrogans</i>. Use the following link for information and forms: http://slph.state.nc.us/Microbiology/default.asp
<p>PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health workers should exercise caution in doing environmental investigations. • Personal protective equipment is indicated if entering any area potentially contaminated with <i>L. interrogans</i> or when handling any material potentially contaminated with <i>L. interrogans</i>.
<p>RISK COMMUNICATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where widespread public exposure is possible due to flood waters or contamination of recreational waters, messages should be prepared for media release to warn the public of contaminated waters and the measures those already exposed should take. • Consider using risk communication tools conservatively for low profile cases with limited exposure. • Messages for health professionals and government officials should also be prepared and released to assist in reducing exposures, and to provide information regarding the identification and treatment of additional cases. • Outbreaks will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and a press release.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.
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