

## **Possible Outbreak of Leptospirosis Linked to Strafford Pond**

To: White River Junction-area Health Care Providers

From: Cort Lohff, MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist for Infectious Diseases

- Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects both people and animals. People can get infected following exposure to water contaminated with the urine of infected animals. If infected, people may or may not develop illness. 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. Prophylaxis IS NOT indicated for persons exposed but not yet symptomatic.
- 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 result of these reports, the Health Department has initiated an investigation to identify additional cases and determine risk factors for exposure, with the intent of preventing any additional cases.
- 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 treatment recommendations.

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