

Reporting Criteria for Leptospirosis

(1) Definition

Leptospirosis is an acute febrile disease with a broad clinical spectrum caused by *Leptospira* spp. (e.g. *L. interrogans*).

(2) Clinical signs and symptoms

The infection is acquired cutaneously through contact with sewage, river water or other bodies of fresh water contaminated by urine of carrier animals (e.g. rat, dog, cattle, horse, pig), and, occasionally, through ingestion of pathogen-contaminated foods.

Typical signs/symptoms are jaundice, hemorrhage and renal failure. Leptospirosis may be referred to as Weil's disease, a severe form with icterus, hemorrhage and proteinuria, Akiyami (autumn fever) or canicola fever: the latter two are mild forms of leptospirosis.

The incubation period is 3-14 days. The disease starts with sudden onset of chills, shivering, high fever, myalgia and conjunctival suffusion. 4-5 days after onset, jaundice and hemorrhage may appear in some cases.

(3) Reporting criteria

a) "Patients (confirmed cases)"

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a patient with clinical signs or symptoms as described in (2), suspected leptospirosis, and has made a diagnosis of leptospirosis based on the results obtained by the laboratory method and specimen as described below, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

b) "Asymptomatic infections"

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined an individual without clinical signs or symptoms listed in (2), but has diagnosed that the individual was an asymptomatic case of leptospirosis based on the results obtained by the laboratory method and specimen as described below, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

c) "Deceased individual whose death was attributed to leptospirosis"

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a deceased person with clinical signs as described in (2), and, has diagnosed that the death was due to leptospirosis based on the results obtained by the laboratory methods and specimens as described below, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

d) "Deceased individual whose death was suspected to be due to leptospirosis"

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a deceased person with clinical signs as described in (2) and has suspected that the death was caused by leptospirosis, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

Laboratory method	Specimen
Detection of the pathogen by isolation and identification	Blood, cerebrospinal fluid, urine
Direct detection of the pathogen's DNA by PCR	
Detection of antibody by microscopic agglutination test (MAT) (increase in antibody titer in paired serum specimens or seroconversion positive)	Serum