WHAT IS WEIL’S DISEASE (LEPTOSPIROSIS)
Weil’s disease is a serious, sometimes fatal, bacterial infection. It is transmitted to humans by contact with the infected urine of wild or domestic animals – most commonly rat urine. The disease causes fever, headaches and flu-like symptoms. In severe cases jaundice, kidney failure and heart failure.
The bacteria can get into your body through **cuts and scratches** and through the **lining of the mouth, throat and eyes** after contact with infected urine or contaminated water, such as in sewers, ditches, ponds and slow-flowing rivers.
- Track workers
- Maintenance workers
- Off track engineers
- Anyone in contact with sewers, drains, ditches, ponds, lakes and rivers.
Cover all broken skin with waterproof plasters before and during work

Avoid rubbing your nose, mouth or eyes with your hands during work

Wash all skin if it has been in contact with animal or contaminated water as soon as possible

Always wash your hands before eating, drinking or smoking

How to prevent infection?
Keep this card with you and whenever you go to the doctor or hospital in the case of illness show them this card. The GP on consultation will then be able to arrange appropriate investigations and prompt treatment for you.

If your doctor decides you have Weil’s disease tell your line manager, who must then report it to the Health and Safety Executive.