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Advice to Clinicians about Leptospirosis in U.S. Travelers Returning from Northern Israel

Summary: The Israeli Ministry of Health is reporting an outbreak of leptospirosis in persons with exposure to natural water sources in the Golan Heights region of northern Israel after July 1, 2018.

As of September 6, 2018, three persons with leptospirosis who traveled to Israel have been identified in the United States, with additional suspected cases reported and under investigation. Early symptoms of leptospirosis include fever, headache, chills, muscle aches, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, conjunctival suffusion (conjunctival redness without exudates), jaundice, and sometimes a rash.

Clinicians should consider leptospirosis as a diagnosis in any patient who develops an acute febrile illness within 4 weeks of travel to one of the areas in northern Israel listed below since July 1, 2018. Background Seven recreational water sites in the Golan Heights region have been linked to the outbreak:

- Gilabun (Jilbon)
- Yarden (Jordan) Park
- Majrase (Majrase-Beteha Nature Reserve)
- Meshushim (Meshushim Nature Reserve)
- Yehudiya (Yehudia Nature Reserve)
- Zaki (Zakhi)
- Zavitan