

NAVIGATION ADVISORY NOTICE

River Stour & All Waterways

DATE: 25 May 2024 – at all times

LOCATION: Dedham and all waterways

DETAILS: Please note that at Dedham, on the River Stour Navigation, there has been a reported confirmed positive case of Leptospirosis in a youth that had been swimming in the river. This can lead onto the development of the serious illness, Weil's Disease, in infected individuals. Whilst this risk is present in all water environments amongst others, those at risk include those partaking in activities on, in and by the water. River users should be especially aware and take sensible precautions in a bid to reduce the risks of infection of all waterborne illnesses whilst participating in river activities;

BEFORE – Cover up any cuts or abrasions as infection can enter the body through the nose and mouth, but also any open wounds

DURING – Keep any open wounds covered and redress if necessary, remember to practice good hand hygiene if eating or drinking during your activity. Be conscious of your entry and exit routes to/from the river and where animals may have been present as this is the most likely source of infection

AFTER – Practice good hygiene, shower as soon as possible if in contact with river water and always sanitise hands, especially before consuming food. If you start to feel unwell after being in contact with the river (develop more severe Cold and Flu like symptoms) speak to your healthcare professional and tell them you have recently been in contact with river water.



For further information, contact the Environment Agency on 03708 506506 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday and ask for the Waterways team. In an emergency call our incident line: 0800 80 70 60 anytime.

Katherine Briscoombe

Waterways Manager

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