

Host entry: leptospires must cross physical immune barriers

Within-host persistence: leptospires must survive immune attacks within the host, and establish

Per-leptospire probability of survival

p_c

p_p

Exposure

Site of inoculation

Within-host environment

Infection

Surviving leptospires establish and reproduce

Average of d organisms in inoculum

D_0

\geq

D_w

\geq

D_I

leptospires