
SUBJECT: Local Rabies Risk & Duty to Report
Date: April 20, 2026
Pages: 1
To: Health Care Providers, Hospitals
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

- **Rabies is fatal, but preventable.**
- **Physicians should assess the risk and determine whether to initiate treatment.**
- **Healthcare providers must report any potential human exposure.**

Rabies Risk

Rabies is a fatal disease, and any potential exposure should be taken seriously. Prompt and accurate assessment is critical when a person has been exposed to a potentially rabid wild or domestic animal. In our region:

- In 2025, one bat tested positive for rabies.
- In 2024, two bats tested positive for rabies.

Duty to Report

Healthcare professionals are required to report any incident where rabies could be potentially transmitted to a human. This includes bites, scratches, saliva or mucous membrane contact.

How to Report

Do one of the following:

- Complete the new online [Animal Exposure Report](#), OR
- Fax a completed [Animal Exposure Report](#) to: 1-855-934-5463, OR
- Call to leave a detailed message for a Public Health Inspector:
 - Weekdays (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.): 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4753
 - After Hours/Holidays: 1-877-884-8653

Treating Exposures

For treatment guidelines, see the [Rabies Vaccine and Immune Globulin Information](#) on our website. If you have any questions, call us at the numbers above.

In most cases, rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is not recommended when the biting domestic animal is available and can be observed. Physicians should assess the risk and determine whether to initiate treatment.

If PEP is started, please include the rabies vaccine and immune globulin expiry and lot numbers when filling in the Animal Exposure Report.

For more information, please contact:

Name/Title: Phil Wong, Director of Operations, Health Protection
Phone: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4424
Website: www.wdgppublichealth.ca