
Subject: Local Rabies Risk & Duty to Report Animal Bites and Incidents
Date: May 29, 2024
Pages: 1
To: Health Care Providers and Hospitals
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

KEY REMINDERS

- Report all animal bites/exposures to WDG Public Health by completing all sections of the [Animal Exposure Report](#) form for further investigation.
- In most cases, it is not advised to initiate rabies post-exposure prophylaxis when a domestic animal is available for observation. However, a physician might opt to commence treatment after assessing the risk.
- In cases where post exposure prophylaxis is started, please provide rabies vaccine and Immune globulin batch and lot number information in the Animal Exposure Report section.

Rabies Risk

Rabies is a fatal disease. Careful assessment and post-exposure treatment should not be delayed with patients who have had exposure to wildlife or domestic animals. In 2023, one bat tested positive for rabies in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and in 2022, two bats tested positive for rabies.

Duty to Report

Healthcare professionals are required by law to report all incidents that have the potential to transmit rabies to humans (i.e. bites, scratches, saliva, or mucous membrane contact). (*Duty to Report, Ontario Regulation 557, Section 2 [1] under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.*)

Reporting Bites and Contact Incidents

When you are reporting a bite or contact incident, please do one of the following:

1. Fill out the [Rabies Exposure Report](#) and fax to 1-855-934-5463
OR
2. Call to leave a detailed message for a Public Health Inspector: 1-800-265-7293, ext. 4753 (Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) After Hours/Holidays: 1-877-884-8653

Treating Exposures

For treatment guidelines, refer to the [Rabies Vaccine and Immune Globulin Information](#) sheet and the [Rabies Vaccination Schedule](#).

For more information, please contact:

Name/Title: Paul Medeiros, Manager, Environmental Health
Phone: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4230
Website: www.wdgppublichealth.ca