

SUBJECT: Local Rabies Risk & Duty to Report
Date: June 6, 2025
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To: Health Care Providers, Hospitals
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Rabies Risk

Rabies is a fatal, but preventable disease. Prompt and accurate assessment is critical when a person has been exposed to a potentially rabid animal, whether domestic or wild.

In our region:

- In 2024, two bats tested positive for rabies.
- In 2023, one bat tested positive for rabies.

Duty to Report

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

How to Report

Please report bites or contact incidents by doing one of the following:

- 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, refer to the [Rabies Vaccine and Immune Globulin Information sheet](#) and the [Rabies Vaccination Schedule](#). 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 there are any questions please call us.

If PEP is started, please include the rabies vaccine and immune globulin batch and lot numbers 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