

Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Schedule

Vaccination status	Intervention	Regimen*
Not previously vaccinated	Wound cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All PEP should begin with immediate thorough cleansing of all wounds with soap and water. If available, a virucidal agent (e.g., povidine-iodine solution) should be used to irrigate the wounds.
	Human rabies immune globulin (HRIG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer only once on day 0, the day prophylaxis is initiated. If not available initially, HRIG can be given as soon as possible through the 7th day of treatment. One dose could mean multiple injections as it is administered by body weight. Administer 20 IU/kg body weight. HRIG is currently available in 2mL and 10mL vials with a concentration of 150 IU/mL. At this concentration, the dose is 0.133 mL/kg or 0.06 ml/lb of body weight. If anatomically feasible, the full dose should be infiltrated in and around the wound(s), and any remaining volume should be administered intramuscularly (IM) at an anatomic site distant from vaccine administration. HRIG should not be administered in the same syringe as vaccine. Because HRIG might partially suppress active production of rabies virus antibody, no more than the recommended dose should be administered.
	Vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV) or purified chick embryo cell vaccine (PCECV) 1.0 mL, IM (deltoid area[†]) 4 doses: 1 each on days 0[§], 3, 7 and 14[¶]
Previously vaccinated**	Wound cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See wound cleaning section above.
	HRIG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRIG should NOT be administered.
	Vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HDCV or PCECV 1.0 mL, IM (deltoid area[†]) 2 doses: 1 each on day 0[§] and day 3

*These regimens are applicable for persons in all age groups, including children.

[†]The deltoid is the only acceptable site of vaccination for adults and older children. For younger children, the outer aspect of the thigh may be used. Vaccine should never be administered in the gluteal area.

[§] Day 0 is the day the first dose of vaccine is administered.

[¶] For persons with immunosuppression, rabies PEP should be administered using 5 doses of vaccine given on days 0, 3, 7, 14 and 28.

** Any person with a history of pre-exposure vaccination with HDCV, PCECV or rabies vaccine adsorbed (RVA); prior PEP with HDCV, PCECV or RVA; or previous vaccination with any other type of rabies vaccine and a documented history of antibody response to the prior vaccination.

Source: CDC. Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Post-exposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies: Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR Recommendations and Reports, 2010; 59(RR-2), p. 6. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5902a1.htm>