

What should you do if you think you have been exposed to rabies?

- 1) Clean all wounds with soap and water.
- 2) Call your healthcare provider who will determine if you need treatment.
- 3) Contact your town's Animal Control Officer (ACO) if the suspected animal is domestic. Contact your local Game Warden if the suspected animal is wild.
- 4) If your pet may have been exposed, notify your veterinarian.



How are rabies exposures treated?

For people, it is a combination of vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) shots called "post-exposure prophylaxis". To work best, the series should begin as soon as possible after being exposed.

An unvaccinated person should get 4 doses of rabies vaccine, one shot at a time, over the course of 2 weeks, along with a dose of RIG.

A person who got pre-exposure vaccine should get 2 doses of rabies vaccine – one dose right away and one 3 days later; no RIG is necessary.

A person who has a weakened immune system should receive 5 doses of rabies vaccine over the course of a month.

If the suspected animal is caught and can be tested (if wild) or watched for signs of rabies (if domestic), your doctor may wait to see if treatment is needed for you.

What can you do to prevent rabies?

Vaccinate both indoor and outdoor pets and livestock.

Do not approach, handle, or feed wildlife or unknown domestic animals.

Do not move wildlife from one area to another, as this can spread rabies.

Report sick, stray, or strange-acting animals.

Contact a healthcare provider right away, if bitten or scratched by an animal.

If you wake up to a bat in the bedroom, safely capture it and call Maine CDC.

Consider the pre-exposure rabies vaccine if you have frequent exposure to wild animals, such as if you are an ACO, Game Warden, or veterinarian.



Questions/concerns?

**Call Maine CDC at
1-800-821-5821**

Rabies Stinks

What is rabies?

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the brain and spinal cord and can be fatal if left untreated.

It is very rare in people in the United States. In Maine, it is most common in skunks, raccoons, bats and foxes.

Rabies is spread when an infected animal bites or scratches another animal or person, or when saliva or brain tissue gets into an open cut, or into the mouth, nose or eyes.

Rabies is not spread by petting a rabid animal, by touching dried saliva, or by urine, feces, or blood.

