



RABIES EXPOSURE FACT SHEET

ANIMAL BITES/RABIES

Animal bites are common. An animal bite that breaks or punctures the skin needs to be evaluated by a health professional. There is a chance of developing a bacterial infection and possibly a need for antibiotics. The situation also needs to be evaluated for the possible transmission of rabies. Bites of some wild animals, especially bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, bobcats, and some stray, unvaccinated dogs and cats may transmit rabies virus. Bats have small teeth which may not leave marks that are easily seen. If someone or a child is unattended and finds a bat in the room, seek medical advice. Do not handle yourself and report to your local health department.

WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a very serious viral infection that infects the nervous system. The virus spreads from the animal's saliva and enters bite site.

KEEP IT FROM SPREADING

Rabies can only be confirmed in a lab. The animal must be sent to a lab that conducts rabies testing to confirm diagnosis. Have pets vaccinated for rabies and supervise pets when they are outside. Avoid contact with wild or stray animals, particularly those behaving strangely or aggressively. Call animal control to remove stray animals from your neighborhood. Children should never be allowed to touch dead animals.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Symptoms can include anxiety, difficulty swallowing, seizures, and paralysis. Once signs or symptoms develop, rabies is almost always fatal.



SAFE



RABID

TREATMENT

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Rabies can be prevented through a series of shots called post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). If you receive PEP, it is important to return for the vaccinations when your health care provider instructs you to.

EXCLUSION IS NOT NECESSARY, UNLESS IT COMPROMISES THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OTHERS IN THE GROUP.