

Patient Name			Date of Birth	Today's Date				
			___/___/___	___/___/___				
Last	First	MI	Mo	Da	Yr	Mo	Da	Yr

## Guide to Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Bats

### WHAT IS A BAT EXPOSURE?

An exposure is a bite (any penetration of the skin by teeth) OR saliva or brain/spinal cord tissue introduced into an open wound, abrasion, or scratch in the skin (those that have bled in the past 24 hours), or into mucous membranes (eyes), from a known or suspect rabid animal. Note: Only mammals carry rabies

Recent data suggest that transmission of rabies virus can occur from minor or unrecognized bites from bats. In all instances of potential human exposures involving bats, the bat in question should be safely collected, if possible, and submitted for rabies testing.

PEP should be considered when direct contact between a human and a rabid bat, or a bat that cannot be tested, has occurred, unless the exposed person can be certain a bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure did not occur. Because bat bites may be very small and heal rapidly, they are more difficult to recognize than bites inflicted by larger mammals and PEP may be appropriate in the absence of a demonstrable bite. In instances in which a bat is found indoors and there is no history of bat-human contact, the likely effectiveness of PEP must be balanced against the extremely low risk such exposures present. PEP may be considered for persons who were in the same room as a bat and who might be unaware that a bite or direct contact had occurred (e.g., a sleeping person awakens to find a bat in the room or an adult witnesses a bat in the room with a previously unattended child, mentally disabled person, or intoxicated person) and rabies cannot be ruled out by testing the bat.

PEP is not recommended for other persons present in the household during the incident.

**All rabies exposures must be REPORTED to the local health department where the patient resides.**

