

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive



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Commissioner

Public Health Advisory

Monday, July 30, 2018 - 3 pm

Rabies Exposure Guidelines for Emergency Departments

Prior to administration of Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP), contact the Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) at (845) 486-3404 (M-F/9-5) or (845) 431-6465 (after-hours) to report exposure for case investigation and to coordinate the post-exposure rabies vaccine series. DBCH will not release its vaccine supply without case reporting and prior authorization.

***** Fax Copy of Treatment Report to (845) 486-3564 *****

RPEP Treatment Guidance:

- Before administration of HRIG, perform wound cleaning with soap and water and irrigation of the wound with virucidal agent.
- Every effort should be made to administer the HRIG into the wound, where the exposure occurred. If this is not possible, the remainder should be administered intramuscularly (IM) at a site distant from the site of rabies vaccination. HRIG should never be administered in the same syringe or at the same site as the rabies vaccine. New FDA-approved HRIG products are now available. For more information, visit NYS Post-Exposure Guidelines at: www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies.
- Refer the patient to DBCH to arrange for the remaining vaccine doses.

What Constitutes Human Exposure to Rabies?

The following human exposure scenarios are considered for post-exposure prophylaxis:

- **Bite:** Penetration of the skin by the teeth of a rabid or potentially rabid animal.
- **Open wound:** Saliva, cerebrospinal fluid, spinal cord or brain tissue of a rabid animal in contact with an open wound or skin that has bled within the past 24 hours.
- **Mucous membrane:** Saliva, cerebrospinal fluid, spinal cord or brain tissue of a rabid animal that goes onto any mucous membrane of a human (eyes, nose, mouth).
- **Other:** Any interaction with a rabid or potentially rabid animal where a bite, open wound, or mucous membrane exposure cannot be definitively ruled out. This includes situations where a bat is found in a room with a sleeping person, unattended child, or an intoxicated or mentally compromised person.