



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## Requirement to Report Potential Rabies Exposures to Humans

### May is Rabies Awareness Month!

Rabies is an infectious viral disease that is nearly always fatal once symptoms appear. It affects the central nervous system of humans and other mammals. In 2025 Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) conducted over 1700 rabies investigations and had over 235 requests for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) from health care providers (HCP). Approximately 52% of PEP requests were for wildlife exposures, 32% for dog exposures and 15% for incidents involving cats.

### Requirement to Report

The *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, Ontario Regulation 557 section 2(1) states:

A physician, registered nurse in the extended class, veterinarian, police officer, or any other person who has information regarding a potential rabies exposure shall, as soon as possible, notify the Medical Officer of Health and provide all relevant information, including the name and contact information of the exposed person, in relation to **any bite or other contact** with a mammal that may result in the transmission of rabies to a person.

To report a potential human exposure with a bat, wild life, domestic animal or livestock please complete the [Animal Bite/ Exposure Form](#) ([durham.ca/hcp](http://durham.ca/hcp), under forms, reporting) and fax it to the confidential line at 905-666-1887.

### Questions about rabies risk assessments?

DRHD is available to assist with rabies risk assessment questions. To speak with a public health inspector, please call Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729. After regular business hours (between 4:30 pm and 8:30 am), during weekends and holidays please call 1-800-372-1104 or 905-576-9991. Or, please visit the [rabies post-exposure prophylaxis](#) section of our Health Care Provider webpage on [durham.ca/hcp](http://durham.ca/hcp) (under Tools and guidance documents). For more information on rabies in general, please visit [durham.ca/rabies](http://durham.ca/rabies).

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](http://durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

