

Bat in the House! Flowchart

Not every bat found in a house needs to be tested for rabies, and people do not always need to get rabies vaccinations when a bat is found and can't be tested. Use this flowchart to determine if the bat you found should be tested, or if you should call public health to discuss whether someone in the household should consider getting rabies vaccinations*.

[CDC: Bats and Rabies](#)

We found a bat in the house!

Was the bat alive when you found it?

NO

Call your Local Health Department or DPH to discuss the situation.

If your pet had contact with a bat, contact your veterinarian for advice.

YES

Did you find the bat in a room where someone was sleeping, or someone would be unable to communicate contact with the bat, or did you wake up and see the bat in the room?

NO

Did anyone have direct physical contact with the bat?

NO

If you still have the bat, and the bat is alive, you can release it.

No further action is necessary.

YES

Do you have the bat now?

YES

NO

Call your Local Health Department or DPH to assess whether people in the household need rabies vaccination.

YES

Contact your local health department or local animal control officer to have the bat tested for rabies.

You can wait for results before starting rabies vaccinations.

*Rabies vaccination after a rabies exposure is also called post-exposure prophylaxis. In most people who have never had rabies vaccine before, this consists of one dose of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) on day 0, and four doses of vaccine on days 0, 3, 7, and 14.

If someone has had rabies vaccinations in the past, usually that person gets only two booster doses of vaccine on days 0 and 3. Previously vaccinated people should not receive HRIG.