**How to get care for your possible rabies exposure**

**Have insurance?**
Call your clinic right away for a care plan.

**No insurance?**
Urgent care centers are less expensive than the Emergency Room.

Call first to be sure they have enough vaccine and can see you.

At Urgent Care, ask to speak to Patient Resources for help with the cost of the visit and follow-up care.

_Urgent Care locations are listed on the back page._

**Other help:**
Vaccine companies have assistance programs. They give vaccine for free to uninsured clients who qualify.

Ask the clinic if they participate in the assistance program for free vaccine and rabies IG.

Information and applications can be found at:


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**What to do about your possible rabies exposure**

**What care will I receive?**
- A doctor will decide the best wound care to help prevent rabies and for good healing.
- You may need a tetanus shot if you haven’t had one in 5 years.
- Human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) plus rabies vaccine may be recommended for both bite and non-bite exposures.
- If vaccination is recommended, three more vaccines are needed after the first visit. They are not the painful shots of the past!

_Finish the vaccine series if recommended to be fully protected from rabies!_

**Dane County Urgent Care Locations:**

- UW Health—East
  4122 E. Towne Blvd
  608-242-6862

- UW Health—West
  7102 Mineral Pt. Rd.
  608-828-7676

- Dean—East
  1821 S. Stoughton Rd.
  608-260-6020

- Dean—West
  752 N. High Pt. Rd.
  608-250-1525

- Stoughton Hospital
  900 Ridge St.
  608-873-6611

_These Urgent Care locations regularly stock rabies IG and vaccine and will see uninsured patients._

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/Public Health
MADISON & DANE COUNTY
Healthy people and places
What is rabies and why should I be concerned?

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system.

Rabies is spread when an animal with rabies bites you, or its saliva enters a wound on your skin.

If you’re exposed to rabies, it can take 3-8 weeks for you to get sick with rabies.

Even if you’ve had a rabies vaccine in the past, you need booster shots if you’ve been exposed to rabies.

You cannot tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it.

What should I do if I am bitten by an animal or come in contact with a bat?

Clean the wound right away with soap and water for ten minutes.

Report the bite to Public Health—Animal Services at 255-2345. (Non-emergency police dispatch)

See back of pamphlet if you are uninsured.

If you find a bat in a room with:

◇ A sleeping person
◇ An unattended child
◇ A mentally disabled person
◇ A pet
◇ Someone under the influence of drugs or alcohol

- Safely capture the bat or keep it in a room with the doors and windows closed. Don’t set it free.
- If you must kill the bat, don’t damage the head. The head will be sent to a lab for rabies testing.
- Call Public Health—Animal Services at 255-2345. They will help capture the bat and/or pick up the bat and transport it to the lab.
- If the test results are negative, you were not exposed to rabies at the time of the incident.
- If the test results are positive or indeterminate (unknown), you need to be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- If the test is negative, you were not exposed to rabies at the time of the incident.
- If the animal was not captured, we don’t know if the animal had rabies. You may need to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

If you are bitten by a wild animal:

- Watch the animal so that it can be captured. It is ok for you to capture the animal if you can do so without being bitten again.
- If you need to kill the animal, don’t damage the head. The animal head will be sent to a lab for rabies testing.
- Report the bite to Public Health—Animal Services at 255-2345. They may help you capture the animal and have it tested for rabies.
- If the rabies test is positive or indeterminate (unknown), you need to be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- If the test is negative, you were not exposed to rabies at the time of the incident.
- If the animal was not captured, we don’t know if the animal had rabies. You may need to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

If you are bitten by a dog, cat or other pet:

- Find out if the pet is up to date on rabies shots by asking the owner to call their vet.
- Report the bite to Public Health—Animal Services at 255-2345. If you don’t know the owner or the animal is not found they will help you capture or find the animal.
- All pets that have bitten a person need to be watched by a vet for 10 days.
- If the animal shows no signs of rabies after 10 days, the animal did not have rabies and you were not exposed.
- If the animal shows signs of rabies, additional testing will occur and you may need rabies shots.

Questions?

Call the Public Health Nurse Helpline:
608-266-4821

For more information about rabies:
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/Rabies/index.htm
www.publichealthmdc.com
www.cdc.gov/rabies/