

# Rabies

## Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

Current recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

### What is rabies PEP?

- Wound cleaning
- Human rabies immune globulin (RIG)\*
- A series of rabies vaccinations

\*For persons who have **not** previously been vaccinated against rabies.

### When is rabies PEP indicated?

Rabies PEP should be given to anyone with suspected exposure to the rabies virus. Exposure usually occurs through a bite from an infected animal which may include bats, raccoons, cats, skunks, foxes, dogs, or other mammals. Please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health or your local health department for assistance in assessing rabies exposure.

### How should rabies PEP biologics be administered?

Not previously vaccinated



RIG (20 IU/kg)

Infiltrate wound with full dose, if possible. inject remaining volume IM. If no visible wound (e.g. bat exposure), the entire dose should be injected IM. Injection should be at site distant to vaccine.

Do **not** inject in the gluteus.

Vaccine (1 mL)

Inject IM, in deltoid, on days 0, 3, 7 and 14\*.

\*Immunocompromised persons should receive an additional 5<sup>th</sup> dose on day 28.

Previously vaccinated

RIG

Do **not** administer.

Vaccine (1 mL)

Inject IM in deltoid on days 0 and 3.

### Important Dos and Don'ts

#### **DO**

- ✓ Do infiltrate all wounds with RIG unless patient was previously vaccinated.
- ✓ Do inject vaccine in deltoid (or thigh in children).
- ✓ Do give tetanus booster, if appropriate.
- ✓ Do report animal bites to health department.

#### **DON'T**

- ✗ Don't inject RIG or vaccine in the gluteus.
- ✗ Don't give RIG to a previous recipient of PEP or pre-exposure vaccination.
- ✗ Don't inject RIG and vaccine at the same site.
- ✗ Don't give more than the recommended dose of RIG.

Contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health:  
1-877-PA HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Health**

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