



Clinton County Health Department

133 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901-2926

“Working Together for a Healthier Community”

www.clintonhealth.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Administration Division

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News Release

Date: July 24, 2019
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Rabies Update

Bat in Town of Mooers Home Found to Have Rabies

A bat captured inside a Town of Mooers residence on July 18, 2019 has been tested for rabies and is positive for the disease. One person who was sleeping in the room where the bat was found is receiving rabies post-exposure treatment.

Rabies is a fatal viral infection, usually transmitted by an infected animal’s bite. Humans can be exposed to rabies through a bite or scratch from a bat. **The virus is passed through the animal’s saliva.** Treatment to prevent rabies is given if there is a reasonable chance that these types of contact occurred (for example, if a bat is near an unattended child or person with mental impairment, or in a room with a sleeping person). **Bat bites are small and hard to detect and treatment must be given before symptoms of rabies appear.** If anyone comes in contact with a bat or you find a bat in your home or camp, and are unsure about whether anyone has come in contact with the bat, capture the bat without damaging the head and contact your health department. In Clinton County, call 518-565-4870. For a quick video on how to properly capture a bat go to: www.clintonhealth.org/batproofing or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mKdp8pV_Zs

To keep bats out of your home, look for holes that might allow bats to enter and seal any openings larger than a quarter-inch by a half-inch. Use window screens, chimney caps, and draft-guards beneath doors to attics, and ensure that all doors to the outside close tightly.

Avoid doing bat-proofing from May through August. If there are young bats in your attic, many of them can’t fly and keeping the adults out will trap the young who will die or try to make their way into your rooms.

Most bats leave in the fall or winter to hibernate, so these are the best times to "bat-proof" your home.

In addition to bat proofing, it is important to remember that pets, including indoor cats, must be vaccinated against rabies. New York State Public Health Law requires all dogs, cats and ferrets over four months old to be vaccinated. Vaccination of pets is one of the best ways to protect your family from rabies.

The Department has planned six (6) Rabies Vaccination Clinics being held from 6:00pm - 8:30pm on:

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- August 13, 2019 – Saranac Volunteer Fire Department
- September 17, 2019 – Peru Volunteer Fire Department
- September 19, 2019 – Champlain Volunteer Fire Department
- September 24, 2019 – Beekmantown Town Garage
- September 26, 2019 – Black Brook Town Garage
- December 3, 2019 – City of Plattsburgh Public Works

The schedule of Rabies Vaccination Clinics in Clinton County and other information about rabies can be found at www.clintonhealth.org.

About the Clinton County Health Department:

The Health Department is an accredited full service department serving the residents of Clinton County. The Health Department's Mission is to improve and protect the health, well-being and environment of the people of Clinton County. Visit our website at www.clintonhealth.org or connect with us on Facebook (@clintonhealth), Twitter (@ClintonCountyHD), and Instagram (clintoncountyhealth).

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