

## HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Consulting Public Health Physician

DATE: August 11, 2022

RE: Rabies positive bat found in Oakville

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### QUICK FACTS

- On August 3, 2022, Halton Region Public Health confirmed that a bat found in Oakville tested positive for rabies. This is the first confirmed case of animal rabies in Halton this year.
- All incidents of potential human exposure to rabies must be reported to Public Health staff to investigate, provide education and monitor local activity, as per the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#).
- In addition to cat and dog scratches/bites, please also report bat, raccoon, skunk and other mammal contact, since there are [ongoing cases](#) of these animals testing positive for rabies in Burlington, Milton and Oakville over recent years.

### HOW TO REPORT

- Call 311 AND
- Complete the [Rabies Exposure Reporting Form](#) and fax to 905-825-8797.
- Reports are accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.

### POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP)

- The [Rabies Prevention and Control Protocol](#) recommends that individuals receive post-exposure prophylaxis within 24 hours after the decision is made that PEP is required.
- There is no time limit after the exposure for PEP to be administered, however, when indicated, it should be started as soon as possible.
- PEP is available upon request through Halton Region Public Health (RIG and vaccine).
- PEP will be delivered upon completion of a risk assessment - 24/7, 365 days a year by calling 311 and requesting to speak to a Public Health Inspector.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Rabies Vaccine, Canadian Immunization Guide](#), Health Canada
- [Infectious Diseases Protocol Appendix A: Disease-Specific Chapters: Rabies](#), Ministry of Health
- [Management of Potential Rabies Exposures Guideline, 2020](#), Ministry of Health
- [Rabies – Communicable Diseases Information for Physicians](#), Halton Region Public Health
- [Rabies information for Halton residents](#), Halton Region Public Health

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA).