



Rabies Exposure at 14 West Railroad Avenue, Ridgely

Exposure Details:

- On October 4, 2022, a resident at the apartment building located at 14 W. Railroad Avenue, Ridgely woke up to a bat in their room.
- They brought the bat to the Environmental Health Division of the Health Department, who sent the animal for laboratory testing.
- The bat has tested positive for rabies.
- The Health Department is working with the family exposed to the bat.
- The Health Department has been in contact with the property owner.

Actions Required:

- If you, a member of your family, or one of your pets has exposure to a bat (bitten, scratched, or had close contact), contact Environmental Health right away.
- **If you wake up to a bat in your room, this is considered a rabies exposure**, even if you are not sure you have had contact with the bat. Bat bites are very small and cannot be easily seen or felt. Therefore, if you have been sleeping in the same room where a bat is found, you are considered to have been exposed to rabies. Contact Environmental Health immediately.
- If you have had a possible exposure to rabies, the Health Department will help you decide if you need treatment known as rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) and instruct you on how to access treatment.
- If possible, capture the bat. **Do not release. Keep the bat in a sealed container.** The Office of Environmental Health will have the animal tested for the rabies virus.
- Make sure your pets are up to date on their rabies vaccinations right away.
- Remember that rabies is a medical urgency but not an emergency. Contact with our office should not be delayed.
- If there is a bat in your apartment and there has been no exposure to the bat, contact the property owner immediately and take the steps below to remove the bat.

Environmental Health Phone: (410) 479-8045

Rabies After Hours Emergency Line: (410) 829-5910

Deaf and hard of hearing: Dial 7-1-1 to place a call through Maryland Relay.

Removing a Bat:

- If possible, isolate the bat in one room.
- Open any windows and doors leading to the outside.
- Keep outdoor lights on because insects will be drawn to them, which, in turn, will lure the bat outside.
- If the bat does not leave on its own, try using a box, a container or net to capture it.
- The bat may make a chattering noise during or after capture, this is a sign of its displeasure.
- Release the captured bat outdoors.
- Contact Environmental Health regarding potential rabies exposure.
- If the bat is killed in the process, bring it to Environmental Health for testing.



CAROLINE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Rabies Basics:

- Rabies is a fatal but preventable viral disease.
- It can spread to people and pets if they are bitten or scratched by a rabid animal. Rabies is mostly found in wild animals like bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes.
- The rabies virus infects the central nervous system. If a person does not receive the appropriate medical care after a potential rabies exposure, the virus can cause disease in the brain, ultimately resulting in death.
- Rabies can be prevented by vaccinating pets, staying away from wildlife, and seeking medical care after potential exposures before symptoms start.
- If you've been in contact with any wildlife or unfamiliar animals, particularly if you've been bitten or scratched, contact the Health Department's Environmental Health Division.
- Wash any wounds immediately with soap and water and then plan to see a healthcare provider.
- See your doctor for attention for any trauma due to an animal attack before considering the need for rabies vaccination.
- The Health Department will help you decide if you need treatment known as rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) and instruct you on how to access treatment.