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*The following message was sent to you through the Alaska Public Health Alert Network (AK PHAN). Please share this information with others who may be interested. Note: Contact information for the Alaska Section of Epidemiology can be found at the end of this message.*

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## **Nationwide Increase in Reported Human Rabies Exposures: Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis Administration**

*The Alaska Department of Health (DOH) is sharing this CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) advisory regarding the nationwide increase in reported human rabies exposures.*

### **Alaska Update:**

- Rabies is enzootic (always present at a certain level) among fox populations in northern and western coastal Alaska. Epizootics (outbreaks among animals) occur every few years. Rabies has also been documented infrequently among [bats in southeastern Alaska](#). SOE's rabies website is [here](#).
- After several years of relatively lower animal rabies activity, in early 2026, Alaska started to see increased terrestrial rabies in established enzootic areas, e.g., [Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta](#).
- Healthcare providers can call the Alaska Section of Epidemiology (SOE) for guidance on current rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) recommendations, exposure assessments, or accessing rabies testing: 907-269 8000, M-F 8AM-4:30PM, or 800-478-0084, after-hours.
- After consultation with SOE, select specimens may be routed to the Alaska State Virology Lab in Fairbanks; submission forms are [here](#).
- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) tests wildlife for rabies and other diseases as part of its surveillance programs when there is no human exposure. Email [dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov) for submission instructions.

**National Update:** View the [full CDC report](#).

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## **Nationwide Increase in Reported Human Rabies Exposures: Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis Administration**

### **Summary**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory in response to recent reports of increases in human exposures to rabid or possibly rabid animals and rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) administration errors. Since July 2026, multiple United States jurisdictions have reported local increases in human rabies exposures involving known rabies vectors or animals in which rabies is less commonly reported. Several high-profile rabies outbreaks and mass rabies exposure events have highlighted the importance of performing careful rabies risk assessments and following evidence-based recommendations for administering PEP. Health departments can help clinicians who provide rabies vaccination in their jurisdictions stay aware of the importance of rabies risk assessments before administering PEP. Clinicians and healthcare facilities can work to make sure that PEP is administered only when appropriate and that human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and rabies vaccines are administered according to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

This message is sent to you as a service of the State of Alaska, Department of Health, Division of Public Health, through the Section of Epidemiology:

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Phone: 907-269-8000  
24-hour Emergency Phone: 1-800-478-0084