

Rabies Management Protocol Guidance

# Instructions

This document is intended to assist your local health jurisdiction to develop or update a protocol to manage potential rabies exposures. Every jurisdiction is very unique with regards to resources and capabilities, but all of the following concepts should be considered when forming your management plan. Identify how you and your partners can realistically manage rabies exposures.

# Purpose

State your goals for successful utilization of this protocol. For example:

To establish a clear route of reporting of potential human exposures to rabies and follow up for [Your Organization] to prevent transmission of rabies to humans in [your jurisdiction], and to appropriately recommend rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.

# Authority

Listed below are the applicable MCA and ARM’s related to rabies reporting and management of human exposures. Your jurisdiction may have local ordinances. Those should be listed, as well.

## Montana Code Annotated (MCA)

* 37-2-301 Duty to report cases of communicable disease
* 50-2-116 Powers and duties of local boards of health
* 50-2-118 Powers and duties of local health officers
* 50-2-120 Assistance from law enforcement officials
* 50-2-122 Obstructing local health officer in the performance of duties unlawful

## Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM)

* 37.114.102 Local Board Rules
* 37.114.105 Incorporation by Reference
* 37.114.201 Reporters
* 37.114.203 Reportable Conditions
  + Rabies in a human or animal; exposure to a human by a species susceptible to rabies infection;
* 37.114.314 Investigation of a case
* 37.114.571 Rabies exposure

# Roles and Responsibilities

Name the organizations who will be involved with the rabies management process after rabies management planning is complete. While the Health Officer is ultimately responsible for rabies exposure management, this person may delegate the authority to complete portions of the investigation.

## Reporting of Exposures to Public Health:

* Medical professionals
* Veterinarian offices
* Law enforcement
* Animal control/rescue organizations
* Fish, Wildlife and Parks Employees
* Sanitarians
* Other-note members of the public may report exposures

## Animal Management

* Animal Control
* Law Enforcement
* Veterinarian offices
* Sanitarians
* Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
* Other

## Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and Pre-Exposure Vaccination Recommendations

* Health Officer or delegated public health representative

## Testing of Animals (Submission or Collection)

* Animal Control
* Veterinarian offices

## Administration of PEP

* Pharmacy
* Medical officer
* Healthcare providers
* Public health

# Procedure

You may have agency-specific procedures to consider in this section, such as how calls are logged, who is notified within your agency or jurisdiction, etc. You may elect to use the MT DPPHS Rabies Investigation Guidelines during the investigation. Remember to make this section match any local ordinances your jurisdiction may have.

### Dogs, Cats and Ferrets

Consider the following for your procedure-where animals are confined, who will order observation, conditions of observation, who orders the release of observation, time frames for location of the animal, etc. Where the animal observation occurs is decided by your jurisdiction. Some jurisdictions allow for home observation, some differentiate location based on vaccination of the animal.

### Wild Animals and Livestock

Consider the following for your procedure-where animals are confined, who is capable to capture wild animals, time frames for location of the animal, etc. It is recommended to have testing submitted through veterinarians. Remember that wild animal hybrids, such as wolf hybrids, fall into this category.

### Documentation

1. List how to handle the forms your agency requires during a rabies investigation, such as the exposure report, PEP form, and documentation pertaining to the animal.
2. *When rabies PEP is recommended or administered, your jurisdiction is required to submit a Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis report to MT DPHHS within 7 calendar days of the recommendation or administration*.

### Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis

Record what your notification procedure is when a PEP recommendation is made to both the patient and provider. Consider the route communication, where referrals can be made, whether to require signed declinations of PEP, what medical conditions may complicate the administration of PEP, where the immune globulin and vaccine is available, etc. For medically complex individuals (immunosuppressed or taking antimalarial drugs for travel), you will likely need the assistance of a provider to recommend the correct PEP regimen. Your public health agency and partners may work together to assist clients by having a healthcare provider start the series and the public health agency completes the vaccination portion.

### Out of Jurisdiction Case Management

Cases may occur that will cross jurisdictional boundaries. For example, a resident of one jurisdiction may be bitten by an animal in another. This is also true for individuals who experience a rabies exposure while traveling to other states or internationally. These are complex cases, and require CDEpi’s assistance to complete. When cases of potential rabies exposure cross jurisdictional lines, MT DPHHS must be notified for case management by calling 406-444-0273.

# References

1. Montana Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapters 1,2,23
2. Administrative Rules of Montana, 37.114.[101-571]
3. American Public Health Association. Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, 20th Edition, 2015.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Human Rabies Prevention --- United States, 2008: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Postexposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR March 19, 2010