# Management of Patients Potentially Exposed to Rabies

**Did an exposure to rabies potentially occur?**

### Did a mammal (animal with fur) bite the patient?

* Did the patient’s open wound, broken skin or mucous membrane contact saliva or central

No postexposure

### nervous system tissue from a mammal?

* Did the patient have direct contact with a bat such that a bite or scratch cannot be ruled out?
* Did the patient waken to find a bat in the room or see a bat in a room with a previously unattended young child or mentally impaired person?

No prophylaxis (PEP)

YES

Bat?

YES

Available to test?

YES

Test

Start PEP if positive

Contact public health authorities

NO

## NO

Wild animal?

## YES

High risk species?

( ex. raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, bobcat, woodchuck)

## YES

Available to test?

## YES

NO

Test

Start PEP if positive

Start PEP promptly

Low risk wild species?

NO ( ex. squirrel, chipmunk,

mouse/rat, rabbit/hare))

## NO

YES

No PEP

Other or unkown?

NO

## YES

Contact public health authorities

Dog, cat or ferret?

## YES

Healthy and available for quarantine?

## YES

10 day quarantine, stays healthy?

## YES

No PEP

NO Unhealthy?

## NO

NO

YES

Unavailable?

## YES

Test

Start PEP if positive

Start PEP promptly

Small pocket pet? ex. guinea pig, rabbit, gerbil, hamster

## NO

YES

Housed exclusively indoors?

## YES

NO

No PEP

Contact public health authorities

Livestock?

YES

Contact public health authorities


# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

The Division of Epidemiology and Immunization is available 24/7 to answer questions about human exposures. Call 617-983-6800 May, 2018