

RABIES TIPS

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Epi-Hotline 1-877-427-7317

2017

Information for Healthcare Providers

Rabies Exposure

- The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) or your local health department can provide you with rabies post-exposure prophylaxis recommendations based on the *Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Human Rabies Prevention Guidelines*. Those guidelines can be accessed through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for rabies under ACIP recommendations.
- Exposure to rabies is a medical urgency, not an emergency. Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis can be delayed a few days until the animal can be tested for rabies to allow animal control to find the animal and hold it for rabies observation.
- Patients without previous rabies vaccine should receive Rabies Immune Globulin immediately or within 7 days of the first vaccine dose.
- A follow-up investigation is conducted for each case and includes evaluation of people and animals in contact with the rabid animal to determine if rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is needed.
- The KDHE Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response section can provide assistance 24 hours a day at 1-877-427-7317.

“Rabies in humans is 100% preventable through prompt appropriate medical care...”



Rabies Testing

- The Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory conducts animal rabies testing.
- Laboratory confirmed rabid animals are immediately reported to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response Section.

1 to 3 People

Die in the United States every year from rabies, usually due to exposure from a rabid bat, skunk, or raccoon, or to exposure to rabid dogs while traveling overseas. Consider rabies for unexplained encephalitis!