



# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR  
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DANIEL W. GILMORE, PH.D., MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

OCGOV.NET/HEALTH

## News Release

**Date: September 8, 2023**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Megan Graziano**  
**315-798-5229**

## Bat Tests Positive for Rabies in Rome

*Oneida County Health Department Reminds Residents Remain Cautious*

A bat has tested positive for rabies in Rome. The bat was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing on September 5, 2023 and positive results were reported on September 6, 2023. Three people have received post exposure prophylaxis and four pets received booster vaccines.

The summer heat and humidity are continuing into September this year and bats will continue to keep active with the warm temperatures. Residents should know what to do if they find a bat in their home.

Bats are mammals that will either hibernate in colder months or migrate to warmer climates in the winter. In New York, bats are most active during the summertime for this reason. In 2023, Oneida County Health Department has had 62 bats tested. 37 of these bats were tested in the month of August. 3 of the 62 tested were rabid.

Most bats do not have rabies; however, they are the leading cause of rabies deaths in the United States. Residents should try to "bat proof" homes by finding and filling small holes or cracks that bats could enter including window screens, chimney caps, and doors. The best time to do this is in the fall or winter when they have migrated.

If you find one in your home, you should try to safely capture it so it can be tested and contact the health department for guidance. If you are unable to capture it safely and/or are concerned you may have been bitten, please contact your healthcare provider and the health department to determine next steps. Bat bites or scratches can be undetectable, and it is possible to be exposed without knowing. More information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/animals/bats/>.

Pets need to be kept up to date on rabies vaccinations. Per NYS Public Health Law, all dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated by 4 months-old and then one year following the initial dose. Dogs and cats need to receive a booster dose every three years following. Ferrets must receive booster doses annually. For the safety of pets and the convenience of county residents, the Oneida County Health Department offers Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the year in various community locations. There is one more vaccination clinic scheduled this year:

- October 19, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Trenton Offices

### ADMINISTRATION

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501  
TEL: (315) 798-6400 • FAX: (315) 266-6138

### SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501  
TEL: (315) 798-5249 • FAX: (315) 731-3491

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 4<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501  
TEL: (315) 798-5064 • FAX: (315) 798-6486

### CLINICAL SERVICES

406 ELIZABETH ST. UTICA, NY 13501  
TEL: (315) 798-5748 • FAX: (315) 798-1057

Appointments are required for the clinics. For more information on rabies prevention, or to make an appointment for an upcoming rabies vaccination clinic, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064 or log onto our web site at [ocgov.net/rabies](http://ocgov.net/rabies).