



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

OCGOV.NET/HEALTH

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano
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Multiple Occurrences of Rabies in Various Locations in Oneida County

Oneida County Health Department Urges Residents to Protect Themselves and Pets

Animals in multiple areas of Oneida County have tested positive for rabies, and the Health Department is urging residents to protect themselves and their pets.

A fox in the City of Utica and a bat in the Town of Vienna were sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing earlier this week and positive results were reported the following day. One person was exposed to the bat and two people were exposed to the fox.

Additionally, two people in Camden were exposed to a different fox believed to be infected with rabies based on the information and circumstances provided. Labs results are pending. All persons who were exposed to these animals received post-exposure prophylaxis.

Rabies is transmitted from an infected animal to a human through the infected animal's saliva. Rabies is deadly. It is deadly to both animals and people who are infected, but it is also preventable. We can all be proactive in protecting ourselves, our families and pets from rabies.

Get your pets vaccinated and stay up to date on rabies vaccines. Oneida County Health Department offers Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the year in various community locations. Our next event is on July 26, 2022, at Vienna Town Garage. To schedule an appointment for this event or future scheduled events, visit ocgov.net/health or call 315-798-5064.

Stay away from animals that are acting unusual. Animals who get close or acting tamer than you would expect, who are overly aggressive may also be rabid. Animals that are having trouble moving or paralyzed, drooling or foaming at the mouth and bats who are on the ground are all also signs of potential rabies infection.

Call animal control if you see an animal that you believe may be in need. Do not approach stray animals, even if they are cute and seem harmless.

Although the majority of bats are not rabid, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that 7 out of 10 Americans who die from rabies in the United States were infected by a bat. Bat bites can be very small and not visible, so if you find a bat in your home, contact your healthcare provider and health department.

"Prevention efforts are the most important, easiest way to protect ourselves from rabies," said Daniel W. Gilmore PH.D., MPH, Director of Health. "However, if you do become exposed, seek care quickly. Treatment is available but time sensitive."

ADMINISTRATION

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

SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

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

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 4TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
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CLINICAL SERVICES

406 ELIZABETH ST. UTICA, NY 13501
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For more information on Rabies Prevention, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064 or log onto our web site at <https://www.ocgov.net/oneida/envhealth/MosquitoesTicksRabies>.