

Algorithm for Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for Healthcare Providers and Public Health Professionals in Maryland

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases 2016

 Report exposure to local health department, animal control, or police

Perform Risk Assessment
Risk assessment includes species, immunization status, health status, type & circumstances of exposure (bite vs. non-bite, provoked vs. unprovoked), & availability for quarantine or testing.

Was the person bitten or was an open wound or mucous membrane exposed to the saliva or neural tissue of a mammal?

In some situations, it may be appropriate to initiate PEP before test results are available (such as for a bite to the face by a stray animal or rabies vector species); consult your local health department.

