

Rabies

Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

from the 2010 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)



What is rabies PEP?

Rabies PEP includes:

- Wound cleaning
- Rabies immune globulin (RIG)*
- A series of rabies vaccinations

* For persons who have **not** previously been vaccinated against rabies

When is it indicated?

PEP should be given to anyone with suspected exposure to the rabies virus. Exposure usually occurs via bites from wildlife such as bats and raccoons, but dogs, cats, and other mammals can also transmit the virus. Your local health department can help in assessing exposure risk.



How should rabies PEP biologics be administered?

Not previously vaccinated

RIG (20 IU/kg)

Infiltrate wounds with full dose, if possible. Inject remaining volume IM in a site distant from vaccine.

Vaccine (1 mL)

Inject IM, in **deltoid**, on days 0, 3, 7, and 14*.

* Immunocompromised persons should receive 5 doses of vaccine each on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28.

Previously vaccinated

RIG (20 IU/kg)

Do **not** administer.

Vaccine (1 mL)

Inject IM in **deltoid** on days 0 and 3.

Important Do's and Don't's!

DO

- ✓ Infiltrate all wounds with RIG, unless patient was previously vaccinated.
- ✓ Inject vaccine in deltoid or thigh (in children).
- ✓ Give tetanus booster, if appropriate.
- ✓ Report animal bites to local police, animal control, or health department.

DON'T

- × Give RIG to a previous recipient of PEP or pre-exposure vaccination.
- × Inject RIG and vaccine at the same site.
- × Give more than the recommended dose of RIG.
- × Inject vaccine in the gluteus.

Contact your local health department at:

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration
Center for Zoonotic and Vectorborne Disease

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH