



MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

An Accredited Local Public Health Department

www.mmdhd.org

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Post-Exposure Treatment of Rabies

There are two types of rabies exposure: A Bite, which is a penetration of the skin by teeth or a Non-bite, such as scratches, abrasions, open wounds, or mucous membranes contaminated with saliva or other potentially infectious material such as brain tissue from a rabid animal. A bat found in the room of a sleeping individual, an unattended child, a mentally or physically challenged person, or an intoxicated individual, is also considered an exposure.

Local Treatment of Wounds: The wound should be thoroughly cleansed immediately with soap and water. Tetanus prophylaxis and measures to control bacterial infections should be given as indicated.

Specific Treatment: Except for persons who have been previously immunized with Rabies Vaccine and have a documented adequate rabies antibody titer, post-exposure anti-rabies treatment should always include both Rabies Immune Globulin (RIG) and Rabies Vaccine. Rabies Immune Globulin and Rabies Vaccine are recommended for both bite and non-bite exposures.

Adverse Reactions: Local or mild adverse reactions to the RIG and Rabies Vaccine after the injection are uncommon, but may be treated symptomatically if they occur. Local tenderness, soreness or stiffness of the muscles may occur at the injection site and may persist for several hours after injection. Redness and/or swelling may also occur. Taking medication such as Tylenol or Advil as directed or applying cold compresses over the injection site may relieve the symptoms.

Administration: Rabies Immune Globulin is a one time injection on day 0. The Rabies Vaccine consists of four injections on days 0, 3, 7 and 14 from the day of the report of exposure.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department does not administer rabies post-exposure treatment. The Public Health Nurse will assist individuals in receiving treatment through the Emergency Department or Medical Provider. The Public Health Nurse will advise individuals in need of post-exposure treatment to contact their health insurance carrier to determine if the treatment is a covered benefit. Those without insurance coverage will be assisted in accessing free vaccine through www.rxhope.com or Michigan Department of Community Health.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Mid-Michigan District Health Department at the following numbers:

Clinton County: Becky Stoddard, RN – 989-227-3111
Gratiot County: Megan Schulz, RN – 989-875-1009
Montcalm County: Laura Grosskopf, RN – 989-831-3615

*Your Public Health Experts;
Connecting with the Community and Exceeding Expectations.*