

Daily News

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Xylazine-involved death reported in Montcalm County

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By [The Daily News Staff](#) | on May 04, 2022

Submitted by the Mid-Michigan District Health Department

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) has been notified of a fatal overdose in Montcalm County involving the drugs xylazine and fentanyl.

The death occurred in March and was recently discovered during a routine vital records death review.

MMDHD officials told the Daily News that the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services did not provide information about the gender, age or hometown of the person who died.

Xylazine is a potent drug used in veterinary medicine and has not been approved for human use. It causes sedation, muscle relaxation, slowed respiratory rate, slowed heart rate and low blood pressure. While xylazine shares many of the same effects as opioids, it does not respond to naloxone to reverse its effects in the event of an overdose.

Fentanyl is a highly potent opioid that may be found in the xylazine supply without the user's knowledge. The effects of Fentanyl can be reversed by administering naloxone.

The MMDHD recently supported the launch of a syringe service program, which is operated by the Red Project and located at Randy's House, 118 E. Benton St., Greenville. Naloxone and overdose prevention training is available. The hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (616) 494-4608 with questions or for after-hours service.

Daily News

Thursday, May 5, 2022

What to do when you have a bat in your house

Submitted by the Mid-Michigan
District Health Department

Bats have somewhat of a bad reputation, but they do have some good attributes, like eating their weight in bugs each night and helping to pollinate some of our favorite fruits. However, they do have one big downside: they are one of the most common animals in Michigan to transmit rabies, a disease that is fatal if left untreated. That's why, when it comes to bats, we are wise to keep our distance.

Avoiding bats is sometimes easier said than done, especially when one finds its way into your home. If this happens to you, be aware that there are

a several instances where the bat might need to be captured for rabies testing. These instances are: if a bat is found near a sleeping person, someone who is intoxicated, a child, or a mentally impaired person, or if a bite occurs.

Capturing a bat isn't as difficult as you may think. First, you'll need to gather a few items: a pair of gloves (leather work gloves are ideal), a small box or coffee can, a piece of cardboard and tape. When the bat lands, approach it slowly. Place the box or coffee can over the bat and slide the cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside. Then, tape the cardboard securely to the container. Keep in mind that to be tested, a bat's head must be kept intact, so hitting it

with any type of object, like a tennis racket or a baseball bat is not advised.

The only thing worse than finding a bat in your house is getting bitten by one. If this should happen:

- Immediately wash the wound with a water and iodine solution, which has been shown to reduce the likelihood of rabies.

- Capture the bat in case it needs to be tested.

- Call the Mid-Michigan District Health Department at (989) 831-3615 in Montcalm County. A Communicable Disease nurse will assess your risk and determine if the bat needs to be tested. Please do not bring bats to the health department without calling first.

- Call your doctor to see if you need to be treated for rabies.

You can prevent bats from entering your home by replacing loose soffits, flashings, eaves, and siding. Also, cover roof vents with screens, make sure all doors shut tightly with no gaps, and that window screens are not damaged or torn.

Additional steps you can take to keep your family safe:

- Avoid contact with wildlife.
- If a wild animal appears sick, report it to the Department of Natural Resources online at [Michigan.gov/eyesinthe-field](https://www.michigan.gov/eyesinthe-field) or call (517) 336-5030.
- Protect your pets by getting them vaccinated against rabies.