

## What Is The Treatment For People Exposed To Rabies?

### Exposed To Rabies?

There is no known effective treatment for rabies once symptoms start. Rabies can be prevented if rabies post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) can be administered soon after exposure to the virus.

Rabies PEP consists of one dose of rabies immune globulin (RIG) and 4 doses of rabies vaccine over a 14 day period. RIG and the first dose of rabies vaccine are given on day 0. Additional doses of rabies vaccine are given on days 3, 7, and 14 after the first vaccination. Some people with weakened immune systems may need 5 doses of rabies vaccine.

The RIG is infiltrated into the bite area, if possible, and the rest given in a muscle (*usually the hip or thigh*). Current vaccines are relatively painless and are given in the arm or thigh.

Rabies PEP is very effective in preventing rabies. No one who has received rabies PEP has died of rabies.

## Where Can You Get More Information On Rabies?

### To report a bite or bat exposure:

St. Louis County Animal Control  
Monday-Friday 9 am – 6 pm  
Saturday 9 am – 4 pm  
Closed Sundays & Holidays

314-615-0650

### After normal working hours:

Contact St. Louis County Police non-emergency dispatch 314-889-2341

### Questions about rabies or rabies PEP:

St. Louis County Department of Health  
Communicable Disease Control Services  
Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm  
314-615-1630

or

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
in Atlanta

Website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### Rabies statistics in Missouri:

Missouri Department of Health  
and Senior Services

Website: [www.dhss.state.mo.us](http://www.dhss.state.mo.us)



# Rabies Fact Sheet

Saint Louis  
**COUNTY**  
**HEALTH**

*Saint Louis County  
Department of Health*

*Communicable Disease  
Control Services*

314-615-1630