



# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

OCGOV.NET/HEALTH

## News Release

**Date: December 27, 2023**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Megan Graziano**  
**315-798-5229**

## **Raccoon Tests Positive for Rabies in Oriskany Falls** *Oneida County Health Department Urges Residents to Recognize Signs of Rabies*

A raccoon has tested positive for rabies in Oriskany Falls. The raccoon was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing on December 26, 2023 and positive results were reported on December 27, 2023. One cat was exposed to the raccoon. Unfortunately, the cat was not vaccinated against rabies and as a result, will be euthanized. There were no reported human exposures.

### **Signs of rabies include:**

- Animal acting strangely
- Animal acting mad
- Animal acting shy
- The animal may get unusually close
- Drooling or foaming from the mouth

If you see an animal, wild or stray, do not approach it and stay away. If despite your best efforts you are bit by the animal or have come into contact with the animal's saliva, seek medical attention and contact the Oneida County Health Department to determine next steps. Rabies is a deadly disease and if you become exposed, it is vital to get appropriate care to avoid contracting rabies.

Per NYS Public Health Law, all dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated by 4 months old and then 1 year following the initial dose. Dogs and cats need to receive a booster dose every 3 years following. Ferrets must receive booster doses annually.

For more information on rabies prevention, visit [ocgov.net/rabies](http://ocgov.net/rabies). If you have questions or are concerned about a possible rabies exposure, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

#### ADMINISTRATION

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501  
TEL: (315) 798-6400 • FAX: (315) 266-6138

#### SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
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#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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#### CLINICAL SERVICES

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