



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

ONEIDACOUNTYNY.GOV/HEALTH

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano
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Bat Tests Positive for Rabies in New York Mills *Oneida County Health Department Urges Residents to Recognize Signs of Rabies*

A bat has tested positive for rabies in New York Mills. The bat was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing on November 26, 2024 and positive results were reported on November 27, 2024. One person was exposed to the bat and received post exposure prophylaxis.

Most bats do not have rabies; however, they are the leading cause of rabies deaths in the United States. Bats can sometimes enter homes through cracks or small holes. It is important to bat proof your home to prevent them from entering. Bat bites or scratches can be undetectable, and it is possible to be exposed without knowing. If you find one in your home, you should try to safely capture it so it can be tested and contact the health department for guidance. For helpful tips on how to protect yourself and your home from rabies and bats, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/animals/bats/index.html>.

Signs of rabies include:

- Animal acting strangely
- Animal acting mad
- Animal acting shy
- Animal getting unusually close
- Drooling or foaming from the mouth

If you see an animal, wild or stray, with these signs, do not approach it and stay away. If any animal is acting strangely, call your local animal control officer for help. Additional resources include:

- [Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator: Licensed by the Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\)](#)
- [Wildlife Rehabilitator: Licensed by the Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\)](#)
- [Department of Environmental Conservation at 1-844-332-3267](#)
- Local police department

Per NYS Public Health Law, all dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated by 4 months-old and then one year following the initial dose. Dogs and cats need to receive a booster dose every three years following. Ferrets must receive booster doses annually. For the safety of pets and the convenience of county residents, the Oneida County Health Department offers Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the year in various community locations. Additional rabies vaccination clinics will be offered in 2025.

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

SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES
ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5249 • FAX: (315) 731-3491

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 4TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5064 • FAX: (315) 798-6486

CLINICAL SERVICES
406 ELIZABETH ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5748 • FAX: (315) 798-1057

For more information on rabies prevention, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064 or log onto our web site at oneidacountyny.gov/rabies.