



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

ONEIDACOUNTYNY.GOV/HEALTH

News Release

Date: September 25, 2025
For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano
315-798-5229

Bat Tests Positive for Rabies in Whitestown

Oneida County Health Department Urges Residents to Recognize Signs of Rabies

A bat has tested positive for rabies in Whitestown. The bat was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing on September 24, 2025, and positive results were reported on September 25, 2025. Four people and three cats were exposed to the bat. The people received post exposure prophylaxis, and the cats received booster rabies vaccinations.

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. This includes indoor cats as they can be exposed to rabies from bats in the home. 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, our next clinic will be:

- October 1, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Trenton Town Hall

To schedule an appointment for an upcoming Rabies Vaccination Clinic or for more information on rabies prevention, visit oneidacountyny.gov/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.

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