



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
315-798-5229

Two Animals Test Positive for Rabies in Oneida County *Oneida County Health Department Urges Residents to Recognize Signs of Rabies*

A bat and a raccoon have tested positive for rabies in Chadwicks and Westmoreland, exposing two people and two dogs.

The bat tested positive for rabies in Chadwicks. It was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing on August 24, 2026, and positive results were reported on August 25, 2026. The bat was located at an individual's residence. One person was exposed to the bat and is receiving post-exposure prophylaxis.

The raccoon tested positive for rabies in Westmoreland. It was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing on August 25, 2026, and positive results were reported on August 26, 2026. Two dogs were exposed to the raccoon. The dogs will receive rabies booster shots. One person was also exposed and is receiving post-exposure prophylaxis.

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
- Environmental Conservation Officer Rosters
- Local police department

Per NYS Public Health Law, all dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated for rabies 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

ADMINISTRATION	SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	CLINICAL SERVICES
ONEIDA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING	ONEIDA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING	ONEIDA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING	ONEIDA COUNTY CLINIC BUILDING
800 PARK AVE. UTICA, NY 13501	800 PARK AVE. UTICA, NY 13501	800 PARK AVE. UTICA, NY 13501	406 ELIZABETH ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-6400 • FAX: (315) 266-6138	TEL: (315) 798-5249 • FAX: (315) 731-3491	TEL: (315) 798-5064 • FAX: (315) 798-6486	TEL: (315) 798-5747 • FAX: (315) 798-1057

Oneida County Health Department offers Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the year in various community locations. The next clinic is taking place:

- October 9, 2026, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Town of Trenton Offices

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.