

RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM – DUTY TO REPORT

To: Physicians
Registered Nurses in the Extended Class

Date: 18 February 2025

Re: Duty to Report Animal Bite/Animal Contact

This letter is being sent in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, Rabies Prevention and Control Protocol.

It is your notification and reminder to report animal bites and/or other animal contact incidents to the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) Rabies Prevention and Control Program.

Reporting incidents is mandated under Regulation 557 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. Attached you will find the required paperwork which is to be completed and forwarded to the MLHU Rabies Fax Line (519-663-0107) or emailed to zzFax.RabiesLine@mlhu.on.ca whenever an animal incident has been reported.

DUTY TO REPORT

Ontario Regulation 557, Sections 2(1) and 2(2) under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* state:

- 2(1) *A physician, registered nurse in the extended class, veterinarian, police officer or any other person who has information concerning either or both of the following shall, as soon as possible, notify the medical officer of health and provide the medical officer with the information, including the name and contact information of the exposed person:*
1. *Any bite from a mammal*
 2. *Any contact with a mammal that is conducive to the potential transmission of rabies to persons. O. Reg. 501/17 s. 1.*
- 2(2) *The owner or the person having the care and custody of an animal,*
(a) that has bitten or is suspected of having bitten a person: or
(b) that is suspected by the medical officer of health of having rabies;
shall provide the medical officer of health with such information and assistance with respect to the animal as the medical officer of health requires. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 557, s. 2(2).

Each year, the Health Unit investigates approximately 1500 human exposures to animals that can potentially transmit the rabies virus. Positive cases of animal rabies, specifically bat rabies, occur in the City of London and Middlesex County every year. All animal exposure incidents (i.e., a bite, scratch, saliva contact with a mucous membrane or fresh, open cut/scratch) are investigated by the Health Unit.

www.healthunit.com

PROCESS TO REPORT

All animal exposure incidents and administration of Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP) (forms attached) must be reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit by fax at 519-663-0107 or by email at zzFax.RabiesLine@mlhu.on.ca.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit will contact the individual to ensure follow-up RPEP scheduling is completed. MLHU will administer Day 3, 7 & 14 (and 28 if required) 7days a week by appointment ONLY.

The Health Unit is available to receive all communications 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **Business Hours:**
 - Monday to Friday - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
 - **Fax reports** to 519-663-0107 **or email to** zzFax.RabiesLine@mlhu.on.ca.
 - If you need to speak with the Rabies Coordinator, please call 519-663-5317 extension 8010.
- **After Hours/Weekends/Holidays:**
 - Please call the Health Unit at 519-663-5317 and the answering service will direct your call to the appropriate individual.

Thank you for your support as we work together to protect the health of Middlesex-London residents.

Sincerely,



Dr. Alexander Summers, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Middlesex-London Health Unit

Attachments: Exposure report
Rabies Post- Exposure Immune Globulin (RIG) & Vaccine