



Patient reports animal bite (or exposure to brain tissue) from animal who is a possible reservoir for rabies. (See box.)

1. Patient presents to ED or outpatient clinic.
2. Provider documents using autotext ".edrabies."
3. Routine wound care given, including amoxicillin-clavulanate prophylaxis for open wounds.
4. If patient requires rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (see box), patient is given Day 0 vaccine, and the wound is infiltrated with immunoglobulin. See box for details.
5. If post-exposure prophylaxis indicated, appointment is made for the outpatient clinic for Days 3, 7, and 14. If any of these fall on a weekend, patient to be seen in the ED.
6. Provider forwards final note to the OEH Department pool.

1. Health Aide completes visit in RAVEN including Rabies Investigation Report and reports patient to provider.
2. Provider uses ".mtrabies" to document and forwards the final note to the OEH Department pool.
3. Routine wound care given, including amoxicillin-clavulanate prophylaxis for open wounds.
4. If patient requires rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (see box), provider refers patient to Bethel ED or outpatient clinic for day 0 treatment and immunoglobulin. Otherwise, patient will follow-up as needed.

Patient in village?

1. Patient presents to ED or outpatient clinic.
2. Patient is given Day 0 vaccine, and the wound is infiltrated with immunoglobulin. See box for details.
3. Provider documents using autotext ".edrabies."
4. Provider orders rabies vaccine as a prescription for three more doses.
5. Provider instructs patient to go to the pharmacy to pick up vaccine and to call village clinic to make appointments on days 3, 7, and 14.
6. Patient Custom Education, "Rabies Prevention with Process for Vaccine Doses (Custom)," is completed with the dates of days 3, 7, and 14 and given to the patient.
7. Provider forwards final note to the OEH Department pool.

• Days 3, 7, and 14 vaccine given in village clinic.
• If no health aide in village, patient must come to Bethel for all doses.

Indications for Rabies Prophylaxis

- The bite was from a potential vector of transmission, and this animal is not available to test.
- The bite was from a dog who was behaving abnormally.
- If the dog is available for quarantine, do **not** start post-exposure prophylaxis regardless of vaccination status. OEH (Office of Environmental Health) will initiate a 10-day quarantine. Please check under "all documents" for Alert Note or for the rabies investigation report from OEH.
- If consultation is needed, call OEH at 543-6420 or State Section of Epidemiology 907-269-8000 or 800-478-0084 after hours.

After-Hours Prescriptions

If patient is seen on a weekend or overnight, send the prescription to the pharmacy as usual. Send an email to InpatientPharmacists@ykhc.org with patient's name, DOB, and MRN. Tell the ER charge nurse the patient will be returning the next day to pick up the doses. Instruct the patient to come back to the hospital the next day and to enquire at the ER for the doses.

If There are Problems with Travel

- If travel from a village to Bethel cannot be arranged within 3-5 days, provider orders the vaccine for HAND CARRY to village clinic. Provider should include explanation of situation under "eRx Note to Pharmacy." There **MUST** be a health aide in the village.
- Immunoglobulin must be given within seven days of first dose of vaccine. This must be given in Bethel.
- Continue to try to arrange travel so that patient will be in Bethel within seven days of first dose.

Medications

Use Power Plans "ED Rabies Prophylaxis" or "AMB Rabies Prophylaxis."

- Rabies vaccine 1 mL IM, given on days 0, 3, 7, 14. Same dose for adults and children. Day 0 is the first day the vaccine is given, not the day of exposure.
- Immunocompromised patients require an additional dose on day 28.
- Rabies vaccine must be refrigerated. It may be out of the refrigerator for less than 48 hours as long as it is not stored above 86°F. If vaccine is not stored properly, patient should call pharmacy refill line at 543-6988 to report this and arrange for more to be sent to village.
- Rabies immune globulin 20 units/kg given once. Give as much of dose as possible around and into the wound(s). Administer remainder of dose IM at a site distant from the vaccine administration site. Must give within seven days of first vaccine dose.

Office of Environmental Health (OEH)

- All patients with animal bites are tracked by the OEH. The Rabies Investigation Report can be found under Documentation → All and includes recommendations from the OEH.
- If you need advice urgently, send message with MRN via Tiger Connect to OEHE On Call.

Animals in Alaska that have Tested Positive for Rabies

- Arctic fox
- Caribou
- Cat
- Coyote
- Dog
- Keen's myotis bat
- Little brown bat
- Red fox
- Reindeer
- River otter
- Wolf
- Wolverine

Other Resources

- See the [supplement](#) to this guideline on the wiki.
- [State of Alaska DHSS Rabies](#) page.
- Use the Power Plans "AMB/ED Rabies Prophylaxis" to find all necessary orders.
- See Division of Public Health [Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Treatment Sheet](#).

This guideline is designed for the general use of most patients but may need to be adapted to meet the special needs of a specific patient as determined by the medical practitioner.
Approved by Clinical Guideline Committee 6/1/23. Click [here](#) to see the supplemental resources for this guideline.
If comments about this guideline, please contact Travis_Nelson@ykhc.org.