If you encounter a bat outside your home

Avoid contact with all bats, particularly those found sick or dead on the ground. As soon as a grounded bat is found, it should be isolated to prevent further contact with people and animals. If you can isolate the bat, cover it with a pail, coffee can or similar container and place a heavy object such as a brick or rock on top of the container.

Call Public Health to discuss the need for testing.

St. Lawrence County Public Health Department
80 State Highway 310, Suite 2
Canton, NY 13617-1476

Phone: (315) 386-2325
Fax: (315) 386-2744

To learn how to catch a bat SAFELY, go to:
www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/

The 4 C’s of Bats in Your Home
1. Contact
Did this bat make physical contact with you?
If there was a reasonable probability an exposure would have gone undetected, e.g., a bat in the room with or a bat found on the ground next to:
- an unattended young child;
- a sleeping individual;
- A person under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- a person with sensory or mental impairment.

2. Capture
To capture a bat:
- Turn on room lights and close the windows.
- Close the room and closet doors
- Wait for the bat to land.
- Wearing heavy gloves, place a coffee can, pail or similar container over the bat.
- Slide a piece of cardboard under the container to trap the bat.
- Firmly hold the cardboard in place against the top of the container, turn it right side up and tape the cardboard tightly to the container.
- Place the taped container in a cooler of refrigerated area until further instructions.

3. Call
Call Public Health
(315) 386-2325
On Call Phone (non-office hours)
(315) 454-2363

4. Check
If the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department determines that a exposure occurred or possibly occurred, then the bat would be submitted for rabies testing.
Rabies Postexposure treatment is recommended if the bat tests positive for rabies or if the sample is deemed untestable by the lab.
If there is no sample to test but an exposure is believed to have occurred, then Postexposure is recommended.
Vaccinated pets should be given a booster shot.