

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Public Health Department

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**Found a Bat in your home? Here's what to do:**

Don't panic! Follow the **4 C's of Bats in Your Home** to ensure the safety of yourself, your family, and your pets:

1. **Contact:** Did the bat make physical contact with you or a pet? Is there a chance an exposure would have gone undetected? For example, was a bat in the room or found on the ground next to an unattended young child/pet a sleeping individual/pet, a person under the influence of drugs or alcohol, a person with sensory or mental impairment? If you answered yes to any of these questions, call Public Health.
2. **Capture:** In order to be certain a bat does not have rabies, it must be captured and sent to a lab for rabies testing.
  - Turn on room lights and close the window.
  - Wait for the bat to land.
  - While 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 or refrigerated area until further instructions.

- 3. Call:** Call Public Health at 315-386-2325 or our after-hours number at 315-454-2363 for instructions and guidance. Public Health will help determine if you, your family, or your pets are at risk for rabies and what steps you need to take.
- 4. Check:** If the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department determines that an exposure occurred or possibly occurred, then the bat would be submitted for rabies testing. Rabies post-exposure treatment is recommended if the bat tests positive for rabies or if the bat is considered untestable by the lab. If there is no bat to test but an exposure is believed to have occurred, post-exposure treatment is recommended. *Additionally vaccinated pets should be given a booster shot.*