May 23, 2017

To Local Area Healthcare Providers:

Warmer temperatures can bring an increase in the number of patients seen in emergency rooms for animal bites. Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPWH) would like to take the opportunity to provide you with an update about rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP). Attached to this letter you will find an updated algorithm that allows you to determine if a patient may require the series. Additionally the second page of this document contains notes and considerations about rabies PEP.

If it is determined that a patient needs rabies PEP the treatment has to be started at an emergency room as these are the only facilities in the Jefferson County/Louisville Metro area which carry rabies immunoglobulin (RIG). The PEP series consists of the following:

- One (1) dose of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) administered on day 0, infiltrated into and around the bite wound as much as anatomically feasible, with the remainder administered IM at an anatomical site distant from vaccine administration. HRIG dosage is based on the weight of the patient, 20 IU/kg, and should not be given in more than the recommended dose, as it may suppress active production of antibody, **AND**

- Four (4) doses of vaccine (1.0 mL each administered IM in the deltoid region) on days 0, 3, 7, and 14. HRIG should not be administered in the same syringe or at the same site as vaccine.

**Please note:** A previously vaccinated person needs an abbreviated PEP schedule, specifically day 0 and day 3. Immunocompromised persons should receive the 5-dose series of immunizations on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28 in addition to HRIG on day 0. Contact the health department for the schedule, if needed.

After the administration of HRIG and the first vaccine in the emergency department the patient should contact his/her insurance provider to see where the remaining doses of vaccine may be covered. Some area clinics and pharmacies, such as Kroger Little Clinics and Rite Aid, provide these services. The patient should call ahead to see if a location offers this service and what they would need to bring to receive treatment. Additionally some Emergency Department staff in hospitals in Kentucky arrange for the additional rabies vaccine doses in the series to be given in an outpatient infusion center or outpatient clinic at a hospital. Patients should receive a prescription for the remaining doses of vaccine. Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness **does not** offer the additional remaining doses of rabies vaccine.

Per **KRS 258.065** animal bites are reportable to the local health department within 12 hours after their first professional evaluation. Attached is an animal bite reporting form that should be used when reporting animal bites to the health department. This form should be filled out as completely as possible to ensure appropriate follow-up by the health department.

Sincerely,

Joann Schulte, DO, MPH
Director

WWW.LOUISVILLEKY.GOV
In Kentucky, animal bites to an individual are reportable to the local health department.

**Considerations**

- **PEP** = human rabies immune globulin (HRIG); total dose is 20 units/kg body weight; patients should also receive their first dose of vaccine (1 mL, IM) at the same time as HRIG (Day 0). The patient should then receive additional vaccines on days 3, 7, and 14. Local area pharmacies also offer these vaccines and accept private insurance. Please note: Additional rabies vaccines are no longer given at Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness.

- If you are referring a patient to another healthcare provider/facility to complete the series, please provide the patient with a prescription for the remaining vaccinations (see addendum for example prescriptions). Also, encourage the patient to check with their insurance company to find out where their insurance would be accepted for the treatment.

- In Jefferson County, rabies-testing results since 1989: 1 rabid skunk (1994) and 14 rabid bats.

*There have been no rabid dogs, cats, or livestock in Louisville/Jefferson County during the last 27 years.*
1. Rabies risk assessment requires balancing a number of criteria: the species of animal and the endemcity of rabies for that species in Kentucky, the observed health and behavior of the animal, and the circumstances of the bite.

2. This algorithm only addresses rabies postexposure prophylaxis. Other treatment such as wound care, antibiotics, and tetanus immunization may be indicated.

3. In addition to obvious bites or mucous membrane exposures, the CDC suggests that PEP be considered in cases where there is a reasonable probability that contact with a bat may have occurred (i.e., a sleeping person awakens to find a bat in the same room, an adult witnesses a bat in a room with a previously unattended child, mentally disabled person, or intoxicated individual) and rabies cannot be ruled out by testing of the bat. PEP would not be warranted for other household members.

4. **Barring unusual circumstances, rodents and rabbits are not considered at-risk species. In questionable or unusual circumstances involving rodent, rabbits, and livestock bites, consult the local/state health department.** Rabies is predominantly a disease of carnivorous animals (animals that eat other animals) while carrion eaters like the opossum who eat dead or decaying flesh are seldom affected. Consultation with the state health department is strongly recommended for opossum bites before starting rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis.

5. Provoked exposures may include attempting to feed an animal, entering an animal’s territory, petting or playing with an animal, handling an animal, attempting to break up a fight between animals, having contact with an injured animal, and walking, running, or riding a bicycle past an animal. Unprovoked exposures are rare and typically require an animal to cross neutral space and attack. The physician should attempt to get the patient to describe the scenario in order to establish the true nature or the circumstances surrounding the biting incident – DO NOT simply ask if the bite was provoked or unprovoked.

6. The severity and location of a wound (severe wounds or obvious wounds near the head and neck should be given highest priority), and the expected interval between the time of the bite and receipt of rabies test results should be considered when making a decision to begin PEP while awaiting test results.

7. Unless the person previously received rabies immunoprophylaxis or is immunocompromised, PEP consists of four (4) doses of vaccine (1.0 mL each administered IM in the deltoid region) on days 0, 3, 7, and 14, and one (1) dose of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) administered on day 0, infiltrated into and around the bite wound as much as anatomically feasible, with the remainder administered IM at an anatomical site distant from vaccine administration. HRIG should not be administered in the same syringe or at the same site as vaccine. HRIG dosage is based on the weight of the patient, 20 IU/kg, and should not be given in more than the recommended dose, as it may suppress active production of antibody. A previously vaccinated person needs an abbreviated PEP schedule, specifically day 0 and day 3. Immunocompromised persons should receive the 5-dose series of immunizations on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28 in addition to HRIG on day 0. Contact the health department for the schedule, if needed.

8. If the biting animal is captured and tests negative for rabies after PEP has begun, PEP may be discontinued.

*Adapted from:* Michigan Dept. of Community Health Division of Communicable Diseases and Immunization, “Michigan Rabies Assessment: When a Person Has Been Exposed,” April 2016.

*Reference:* Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Postexposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). CDC MMWR 2010; 59 (No. RR-2).

For additional information, please visit: [http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/medical_care/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/medical_care/index.html)

This document was last reviewed on March 17, 2017 by state and local health officials familiar with the epidemiology of rabies in Kentucky.
Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis (Pep) Reference Guide

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.

For additional questions regarding Rabies and animal bites, please use the numbers below:

Tel: (502) 574-6675 During normal business hours (8am-5pm) and (502) 574-8200 after business hours.

To report an animal bite call (502) 574-6640 or fax a report to (502) 574-6657.
ANIMAL BITE REPORTING FORM

Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 258.065 requires reporting of animal bites by a provider within 12 hours of initial assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Date of Birth: / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>State:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Phone:</td>
<td>Cell Phone:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident/Exposure Information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of incident: / /</td>
<td>Time: am/pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address Where Bite Occurred:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal:</th>
<th>Dog</th>
<th>Bat</th>
<th>Raccoon</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wild</td>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>Bat</td>
<td>Raccoon</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>Skunk</td>
<td>Other, specify:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Breed:</th>
<th>Animal Sex: Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Animal Color:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Location of Bite (Head/facial or body): |  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Owner Name:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>State:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical/Treatment Information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seen by Medical Provider? Yes, Date of Visit / / /</td>
<td>No Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Provider:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility:</td>
<td>Phone:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Did the patient receive treatment: Yes | No |
| Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG): Yes, ml | No |
| Rabies Vaccine: Yes | No |

| Antibiotics given: |  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Provider Information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Phone Number:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness
400 East Gray Street
Louisville, KY 40202

All animal bites are to be reported to the Division of Environmental Health and Protection:
Phone: 502-574-6640 or Fax: 502-574-6657.
After hours facial bites: Call 502-574-6650 and follow prompts to report an emergency. Physicians can obtain additional information on rabies, after hours and for emergencies only, by calling 502-574-8200 and following the prompts.