

RABIES

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

from the 2010 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

What is rabies PEP?

Rabies PEP is a three step process that includes:

1. Wound cleaning
2. Rabies immune globulin (RIG)*
3. A series of rabies vaccinations

* For persons who have **not** previously been vaccinated against rabies

When is it indicated?

Prophylaxis is indicated for any bite, scratch, or other situation where saliva or central nervous system tissue from a potentially rabid animal enters a fresh, open wound or contacts a mucous membrane by entering the eye, mouth, or nose. The Fairfax County Health Department can help in assessing exposure risk.



How should rabies PEP biologics be administered?

Not previously vaccinated

RIG (20 IU/kg)

Infiltrate wounds with full dose, if possible. Inject remaining volume IM in a site distant from vaccine.

Vaccine (1 mL)

Inject IM, in **deltoid**, on days 0, 3, 7, and 14*.

** Immunocompromised persons should receive five doses of vaccine (1 dose of vaccine on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28 and a rabies antibody titer drawn on day 35).*

Previously vaccinated

Vaccine (1 mL)

Inject IM in **deltoid** on days 0 and 3.

Important DO's

- ✓ Clean the wound.
- ✓ Infiltrate all wounds with RIG, unless patient was previously vaccinated.
- ✓ Inject vaccine in deltoid or thigh (in infants).
- ✓ Give tetanus booster, if appropriate.
- ✓ Report animal bites to local police, animal control or health department.

DON'T

- ✗ Give RIG to a previous recipient of PEP or pre-exposure vaccination.
- ✗ Give more than the recommended dose of RIG.
- ✗ Inject RIG and vaccine at the same site.
- ✗ Inject vaccine in the gluteus.
- ✗ Inject RIG in gluteus.
- ✗ Give RIG in the same syringe as vaccine.



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Fairfax County Health Department:
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Fairfax County Animal Control:
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