

## Management of Bats Potentially Affected with Rabies

Individuals who are bitten or scratched by wild animals such as bats, racoons, skunks, and other mammals may be exposed to rabies, a deadly virus affecting the brain and nervous system of mammals. Bites from bats may go unnoticed if someone is sleeping or otherwise unaware. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), bats involved in potential human exposures should be safely collected and submitted for rabies diagnosis. Treatment for rabies is highly effective if administered promptly. In most cases, bats should be captured and released. However, if a person is **bitten by a bat, exposed to bat saliva through abrasions, open wounds, scratches, or mucous membranes (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth), or if a bat is found in a person's sleeping area**, the procedures below must be followed to comply with CDC, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ([DEEP](#)), and Connecticut Department of Public Health ([DPH](#)) recommendations:

1. If an individual(s) is bitten or scratched by a bat, the exposed individual(s) must wash the affected area with soap and warm water.
2. The exposed individual or another individual must contact Facilities Operations (860-486-3113) as soon as possible to report the issue.
3. The exposed and other potentially exposed individual(s) must seek medical care immediately at [Student Health and Wellness](#) (students) during business hours or another healthcare or emergency care facility (employees, students) after business hours and contact their licensed health care professional.
4. Facilities Operations will contact the Hall Director on duty to notify them of the issue.
5. [Residential Living and Education](#) staff must record the name(s), age(s) and phone number(s) of the person(s) potentially exposed, the building and location/room number where the exposure occurred, a brief description of the exposure, and provide the information to [Environmental Health and Safety](#) (EHS) either at the time of the incident or on the next business day (i.e., if the incident occurred on a weekend).
6. During normal business hours, if the bat involved remains in the building, the contracted vendor will respond as soon as possible. Outside of normal business hours, Residential Living and Education must request the activation of the Emergency After-Hour Pest Management procedures through the [Facilities Operations Center](#).
7. The Facilities Operations Center will request emergency after-hours service on behalf of Residential Living and Education and provide the pest control contractor with contact information for the Hall Director on duty, who will meet the dispatched pest technician upon arrival and provide access to the location.
8. If the bat is captured during normal business hours, the contracted vendor will euthanize the bat and deliver it in a closed container to the [Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory](#) (CVMDL) at 61 North Eagleville Road in Storrs, CT and contact EHS to complete the chain-of-custody. CVMDL will ship the bat to the DPH laboratory for analysis.
9. If the incident occurs after business hours, the contracted vendor will euthanize the bat and deliver it to CVMDL on the next business day and contact EHS to complete the chain-of-custody. CVMDL will ship the bat to the DPH laboratory for analysis.
10. EHS will initially cover the costs associated with analysis and then bill either Residential Living and Education (residence halls) or the department where the incident occurred.
11. DPH will share the testing results with EHS, who will contact the affected individual(s) with the results.