



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**(Kill Date: 7/31/2010)**

Livingston County, Howell, Michigan. July 7, 2010 (Livingston County Department of Public Health) – The Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) is advising area residents of steps to take if a bat enters your home. Since most human rabies cases in the United States have been caused by the rabies virus from bats, awareness of this information can help people protect themselves, their families, and their pets.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests that rabies shots be considered in cases where it is possible that there has been contact with a bat such as:

1. an obvious bite.
2. exposure to a bat's saliva or other tissues into cuts in the skin or onto mucous membranes.
3. a bat found in a room with a deeply sleeping person, an unsupervised child, a mentally disabled person, or an intoxicated individual.

To help determine if there has been an exposure, contact LCDPH (517) 552-6882.

Testing of the bat might prevent the need to receive treatment. To safely capture the bat, contact a Pest Control Service professional. If professional help is unavailable, use the following precautions:

What you will need:

- leather work gloves (put them on)
- small box or coffee can
- piece of cardboard
- tape

When the bat lands, wearing the gloves, approach it slowly, placing the box or coffee can over it. Slide cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside. Tape the cardboard to the container securely.

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In Michigan, bats are the species most at risk for rabies infection, and of all the species of animals tested each year in the state, they are the most likely to be positive. In addition, sick bats are more likely to exhibit abnormal behavior, have an encounter with a human or another animal, and be submitted for rabies testing. Abnormal behaviors may include being active during the day, being found in a place where bats are not usually seen (such as inside a home), or inability to fly.

Additional information about rabies prevention can be obtained by contacting LCDPH at (517) 552-6882 or by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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