



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2026

Public Notice of a Bat confirmed positive for Rabies in Clinton County

The Clinton County Health District (CCHD) was notified on April 23, 2026, of a bat collected in the county that tested positive for rabies. The bat was found in the Sabina area. There were multiple exposures to the bat, including a stray cat.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that attacks the nervous system (brain, spinal cord, and nerves). Rabies can infect all mammals and is mostly seen in bats, skunks, raccoons, and other wild animals. However, dogs, cats, and even humans can also be infected. The virus is in the saliva of infected animals and is spread by being bitten by a rabid animal or getting saliva from the rabid animal into an open cut or mucous membrane (nose, mouth, or eyes).

Rabies is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear, however, it is 100% preventable in humans through prompt and appropriate medical care. Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is needed for an individual who was exposed. If you think you have had an exposure, talk to your doctor about rabies.

Do not contact stray or wild animals. Never approach animals who appear to be injured, sick, or dead, especially if you see animals during the day who are usually active at night such as bats or raccoons.

Clinton County's last confirmed positive test for rabies was a horse in 1983 and prior a dog in 1971.

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