



Yakima Health District

Media Release

For immediate release: August 20th, 2019

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Positive Rabies Case

YAKIMA, WA- On Tuesday August 13th, a sick bat was found near Moxee Elementary School in Moxee, WA (located at E. Seattle Ave.). The bat was collected, euthanized, and brought into a local veterinarian clinic. Staff from the vet clinic delivered the bat to the Yakima Health District (YHD). YHD shipped the bat to the state virology/epidemiology lab for rabies testing. YHD has since learned that **this bat was infected with rabies.**

This is very serious because:

- A person who touches an infected bat or comes in contact with its saliva (spit) can get infected with rabies.
- There is no treatment for rabies once symptoms have started. Symptoms of rabies usually develop 3 to 8 weeks after exposure but may appear as soon as a few days after exposure.
- Everyone who develops rabies symptoms dies.

Fortunately, treatment can be given to prevent infection. This treatment must be given as soon as possible after exposure to an infected bat. The treatment to prevent rabies is a series of shots given according to a strict schedule. Two shots are given on the first day, and then three more shots are given 3, 7, and 14 days after the first shots. Just like the shots that are given at checkups, the rabies shots are safe for children and adults. All the shots have to be given before a person gets sick from rabies, or they won't work.

Actions Requested:

- If you, your child or your pet:
 - may have touched a bat near Moxee Elementary School,
 - were bitten by a bat, or
 - had saliva from a bat come in contact with an open wound, eyes, nose or mouth, call us immediately at (509)249-6541. We will give you information about how to get treatment.
- Check to ensure your pets' Rabies vaccinations are up to date.
- If you find a bat, please contact Yakima County Animal Control at 509-574-2500.

For more information about bats and rabies, and how to safely avoid bats, visit:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Rabies>

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