



**ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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HEALTH ALERT

August 26, 2008

RABIES VACCINE SUPPLY SHORTAGE

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS:

1. Perform risk assessment for persons presenting with potential rabies exposure in order to ensure that limited vaccine is given to those who truly need post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).
2. Review attached documents titled "**Reported Animal Rabies by County and Species, California**". They provide information on species tested and found to be positive for rabies in this and other jurisdictions over the past 11 years.
3. Utilize the attached algorithm titled "**General Guidelines for Prophylaxis against Rabies in the United States**"
4. Report promptly to Animal Control to ensure, where possible, that exposing animals are captured, observed, and/or tested. If the animal is in custody, the results of animal quarantine or testing should inform whether prophylaxis is necessary.
5. Contact the **Acute Communicable Disease Unit (ACD) at (510) 267-3250 (daytime) or (925) 422-7595 (after-hours and weekends)** to report a known or possible exposure to a bat or other possibly rabid animals, to discuss indications for rabies PEP *and* to obtain the confirmation code to order *RabAvert* vaccine for PEP from Novartis.

Please have the following information available:

- (a) Provider name, facility name, phone and fax numbers, as well as phone number for ordering pharmacy
- (b) Patient's name, age, address, phone number;
- (c) Details of exposure, including: bites/wounds; location of bites/wound(s), geographic location of incident, and date of exposure;
- (d) Animal details, including: What kind of animal? Is animal known? Has animal been captured? If dead, is the animal's carcass in custody? If so, where?
- (e) Is there a history of person having previous receipt of rabies vaccine? If so, date, and number of doses.

SITUATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is strongly recommending that health care providers, state and local health authorities, and animal control officials take immediate steps to ensure the appropriate use of human rabies vaccine by performing risk assessments for rabies exposure and capturing/observing/testing exposing animals in an effort to conserve the limited supply of rabies vaccine.

As you may already be aware, rabies vaccine is in short supply. **IMOVAX** rabies vaccine from Sanofi Pasteur is currently unavailable. **RabAvert** vaccine from Novartis is the only rabies vaccine available at this time for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). To ensure that thorough risk assessments are conducted, Novartis **requires** that health care providers **obtain a confirmation code from state or local health departments** before an order can be placed for vaccine.

Persons seeking **pre-exposure prophylaxis**, e.g. laboratory staff, animal control officers, veterinary staff, and wildlife workers, will require approval from the state and the CDC. To initiate requests for pre-exposure prophylaxis, please contact Dr. Ben Sun at ben.sun@cdph.ca.gov

The following is the **process to obtain the confirmation code** for the purchase of RabAvert vaccine:

- (1) Call the Alameda County Public Health Department Acute Communicable Disease Unit at the numbers given.
- (2) Please have the information available as indicated above.
- (3) Following discussion of relevant information, if we are in agreement with the need for PEP, the current confirmation code will be given to the ordering pharmacy to facilitate the order of vaccine for that patient.
- (4) The pharmacy may then call Novartis Customer Service to order RabAvert at 1-800-244-7668. The Customer Service Center responds Monday through Friday from 6 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. only. Because of high numbers of vaccine requests, orders placed before 1 P.M. on a weekday, will currently be delivered approximately 2 working days later.

This situation is difficult and challenging for all of us. Your patience and cooperation is very much appreciated.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For more detailed information on the interruption in the supply of rabies vaccine, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-08-15_RabVaxupdate.html.
 - For more information on prophylaxis against rabies, see article entitled “Prophylaxis against Rabies” in the New England Journal of Medicine 351:25, pp.2626-2635, December 16, 2004.
 - For information on rabies data and surveillance in California, please visit the California Department of Public Health website at <http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/HEALTHINFO/DISCOND/Pages/rabies.aspx>.
 - For information on human rabies prevention, please see recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in ‘Human Rabies Prevention – United States, 2008’ at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr57e507.pdf>.
 - For information on rabies in general, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>.
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Health ALERT: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health ADVISORY: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health UPDATE: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**REPORTED ANIMAL RABIES BY COUNTY AND SPECIES
CALIFORNIA, ACCUMULATIVE 1997 - 2006**

LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTION	Cat 15	Cattle 2	Dog 18	Goat 1	Horse 2	Sheep 1	Bat 1630	Coyote 0	Dog-Wolf 2	Fox 43	Opossum 5	Rabbit 1	Raccoon 3	Skunk 1065	TOTAL 2788	Human 6
Alameda	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	0	1	1	0	0	27	93	0
-Alameda HD	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	0	0	1	1	0	0	25	84	0
-Berkeley HD	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	0
Alpine	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Amador	0	1	0	1	0	0	17	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	25	1
Butte	1	0	1	0	0	0	89	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	216	0
Calaveras	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	0
Colusa	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	0
Contra Costa	1	0	0	0	0	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	111	0
Del Norte	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
El Dorado	1	0	0	0	0	1	14	0	0	3	0	0	1	77	97	0
Fresno	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	72	0
Glenn	1	0	2	0	0	0	53	0	0	1	1	0	0	37	95	1
Humboldt	3	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	15	0	0	0	14	49	0
Imperial	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Inyo	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0
Kern	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
Kings	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	9	0
Lassen	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	1
-Los Angeles HD	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	1
-Long Beach HD	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
-Pasadena HD	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Madera	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	16	0
Marin	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	92	0
Mariposa	1	0	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	23	34	0
Mendocino	0	1	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	1	15	29	0
Merced	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0
Modoc	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Mono	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Monterey	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	2	0	0	0	34	65	0
Napa	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	22	0
Nevada	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	2	0	0	0	36	45	0
Orange	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	53	0
Placer	2	0	4	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	1	0	1	202	244	0
Plumas	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Riverside	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0
Sacramento	0	0	1	0	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	93	0
San Benito	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	34	0
San Bernardino	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	66	0
San Diego	0	0	0	0	0	0	108	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	111	1
San Francisco	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0
San Joaquin	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	1
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	4	0	0	0	81	122	0
San Mateo	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Santa Barbara	1	0	1	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	97	129	0
Santa Clara	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	41	0
Santa Cruz	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	19	0
Shasta	0	0	2	0	1	0	15	0	1	0	0	0	0	28	47	0
Sierra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Siskiyou	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	0
Solano	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	33	0
Sonoma	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	0
Stanislaus	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	0
Sutter	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	46	0
Tehama	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	11	0
Trinity	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	1
Tulare	0	0	1	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	1	0	0	19	47	0
Tuolumne	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	40	0
Ventura	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	78	0
Yolo	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	75	0
Yuba	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	37	0

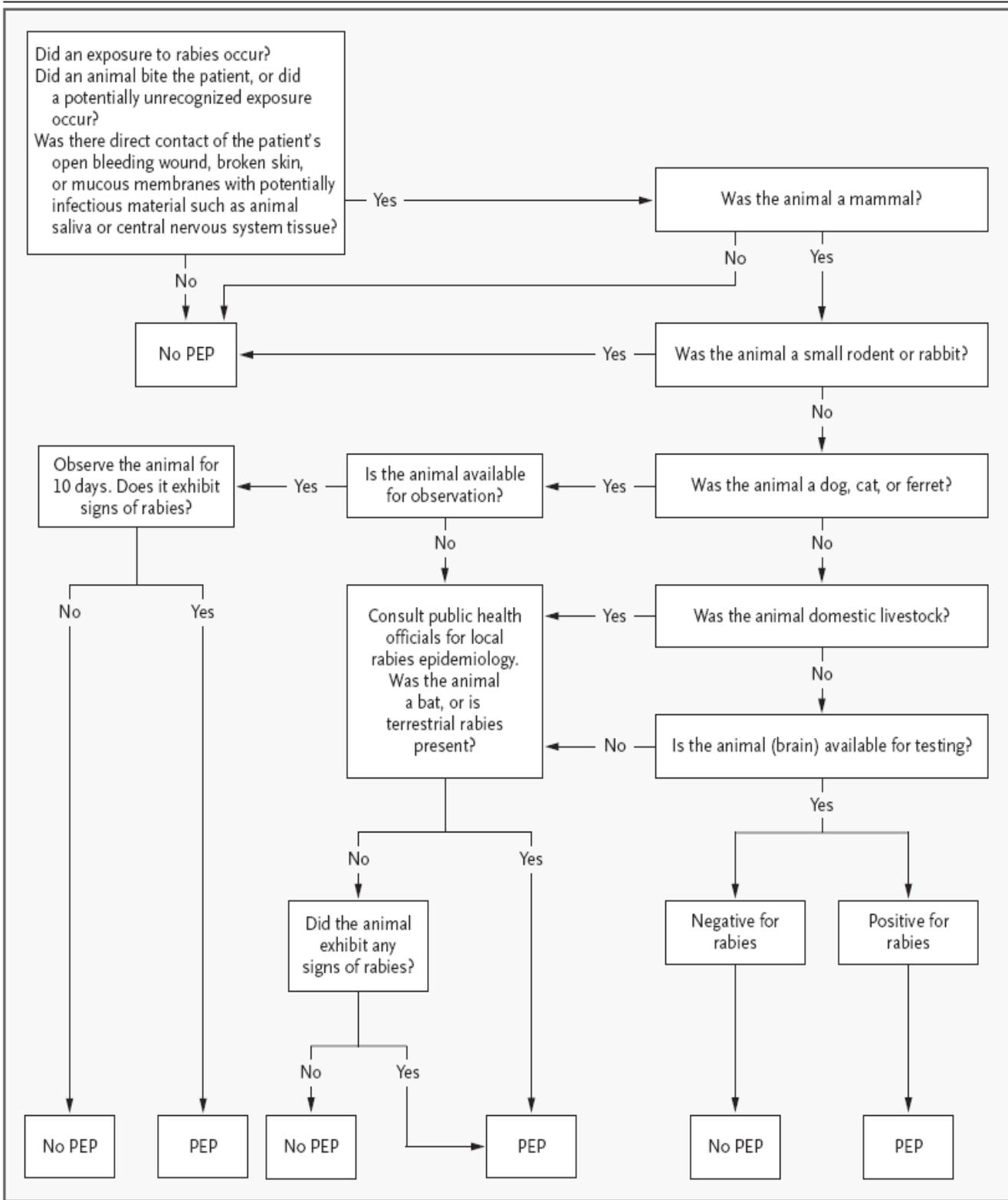
Source: California Department of Health Services, Veterinary Public Health Section

- FINAL -
REPORTED ANIMAL RABIES BY COUNTY AND SPECIES
CALIFORNIA, JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007

COUNTY	CAT 1	CATTLE 0	DOG 0	HORSE 0	SHEEP 0	BAT 152	COYOTE 1	FOX 6	RACCOON 2	SKUNK 26	OTHER* 0	TOTAL 188
Alameda	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
-Alameda HD	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
-Berkeley HD	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Alpine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amador	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Butte	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Calaveras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Colusa	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Contra Costa	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Del Norte	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
El Dorado	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Fresno	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	8
Glenn	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Humboldt	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	7
Imperial	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Inyo	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kern	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Kings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lassen	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	24
-Los Angeles HD	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	22
-Long Beach HD	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
-Pasadena HD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Marin	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	6
Mariposa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mendocino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Merced	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Modoc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mono	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monterey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
Napa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Nevada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orange	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Placer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7
Plumas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riverside	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
Sacramento	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
San Benito	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
San Bernardino	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
San Diego	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
San Francisco	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
San Joaquin	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
San Mateo	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Santa Barbara	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Santa Clara	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Santa Cruz	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Shasta	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	6
Sierra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Siskiyou	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Solano	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sonoma	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Stanislaus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sutter	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Tehama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Tulare	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tuolumne	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Ventura	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Yolo	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Yuba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: California Department of Public Health, Veterinary Public Health Section

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PROPHYLAXIS AGAINST RABIES IN THE UNITED STATES



NOTE: 'Terrestrial rabies' refers to non-bat rabies.

Source: New England Journal of Medicine, volume 351, pages 2626-2635, December 16, 2004.