

BATS in Queen's Buildings

Don't touch bats!

Bats can be a source of rabies transmission to humans. Although bat rabies is rare in our area, it is present and is an extremely serious hazard.

Rabies virus can cause an acute infection, marked by progressive encephalomyelitis leading to death. Almost all cases of clinical rabies in humans are fatal. It is, therefore, important to avoid infection by avoiding contact with bats and by appropriate first aid and medical follow-up if contact does occur.

NEVER attempt to capture a bat. This will put you at unnecessary risk of getting bit or scratched.

- **If you have had direct exposure to a bat while working at Queen's (i.e. a bite or scratch):**
 - Immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water, followed by 70% ethanol or iodine disinfectant if available.
 - DO NOT attempt to capture the bat yourself but isolate it if possible (e.g. by closing doors). Have someone call the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at ext. 32999 to deal with the bat, informing them that there has been a human contact incident. If the bat can be captured, then it will be sent for rabies testing. Afterhours, contact the Emergency Report Centre's (ERC) non-emergency number at ext. 36080.
 - Contact your primary care provider (PCP) as soon as possible. If you do not access to a PCP, then go to Kingston General Hospital Emergency department for medical follow-up. Direct exposure to a bat bite or scratch MAY warrant post-exposure treatment.
 - Monitoring for symptoms is inadequate since, by the time symptoms are apparent, rabies is almost always fatal.
- **If you find a bat in a building at Queen's** - Avoid contact but attempt to isolate it in a room if possible (e.g. by closing doors). Call EHS (32999) who will arrange for a pest control company to capture and remove it. Afterhours, call the ERC's non-emergency line (36080)
- **If you find a dead bat** – If you comfortable doing so, you can safely dispose of the bat. Turn a bag inside out and put it over a gloved hand. Carefully pick up the bat. Use you other hand to turn the bag right side out. Close the bag and place it in a garbage container. If you do not have the appropriate equipment, call EHS for assistance.
- **If you find an injured or sick bat**, call EHS (32999)