

RABIES

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

What is rabies PEP?

Rabies PEP is a three step process that includes:

1. Wound cleaning
2. Rabies immune globulin (RIG)*
3. A series of rabies vaccinations

* For persons who have **not** previously been vaccinated against rabies

When is it indicated?

Prophylaxis is indicated for any bite, scratch, or other situation where saliva or central nervous system tissue from a potentially rabid animal enters a fresh, open wound or contacts a mucous membrane by entering the eye, mouth, or nose. The Columbia/Boone County Health Department can help in assessing exposure risk.



How should rabies PEP biologics be administered?

Not previously vaccinated

RIG (20 IU/kg)

Infiltrate wounds with full dose, if possible. Inject remaining volume IM in a site distant from vaccine.

Vaccine (1 mL)

Inject IM, in **deltoid**, on days 0, 3, 7, and 14*.

** Immunocompromised persons should receive five doses of vaccine (1 dose of vaccine on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28 and a rabies antibody titer drawn on day 35).*

Previously vaccinated

Vaccine (1 mL)

Inject IM in **deltoid** on days 0 and 3.

Important DO's

- ✓ Clean the wound.
- ✓ Infiltrate all wounds with RIG, unless patient was previously vaccinated.
- ✓ Inject vaccine in deltoid or thigh (in infants).
- ✓ Give tetanus booster, if appropriate.
- ✓ Report animal bites to local police, animal control or health department.

DON'T

- ✗ Give RIG to a previous recipient of PEP or pre-exposure vaccination.
- ✗ Give more than the recommended dose of RIG.
- ✗ Inject RIG and vaccine at the same site.
- ✗ Inject vaccine in the gluteus.
- ✗ Inject RIG in gluteus.
- ✗ Give RIG in the same syringe as vaccine.