**Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP)**

**Rabies**

Rabies PEP includes:

- Wound cleaning
- Rabies immune globulin (RIG)*
- A series of rabies vaccinations

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

PEP should be given to anyone with suspected exposure to the rabies virus. Exposure usually occurs via bites from wildlife such as bats and raccoons, but dogs, cats, and other mammals can also transmit the virus. Your local health department can help in assessing exposure risk.

### How should rabies PEP biologics be administered?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previously vaccinated</th>
<th>RIG (20 IU/kg)</th>
<th>Vaccine (1 mL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not administer.</td>
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For previously vaccinated individuals:

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

For not previously vaccinated individuals:

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

### Important Do’s and Don’ts!

**DO**

- Infiltrate all wounds with RIG, unless patient was previously vaccinated.
- Inject vaccine in deltoid or thigh (in children).
- 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.
- Inject RIG and vaccine at the same site.
- Give more than the recommended dose of RIG.
- Inject vaccine in the gluteus.
- Give RIG in the same syringe as vaccine.

Contact your local health department for assistance with deviations from the recommended rabies PEP schedule.

Contact your local health department at:

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