



Epi Update for Friday, August 6, 2021

**Office of the Public Health Medical Director
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis**

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Outbreak reporting of diseases not on the reportable disease list**
- **Rabies bat consultations increasing**
- **Infographic: Rabies exposure management for bat-related incidents**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Outbreak reporting of diseases not on the reportable disease list

Diseases such as varicella (chickenpox), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza, histoplasmosis, and others are not explicitly reportable in Iowa, but suspected outbreaks of these and any other disease are. Reporting outbreaks allows for public health intervention, education, and further prevention of disease spread. Suspected outbreaks of any kind should be reported to IDPH per [Iowa Administrative Code 641 Chapter 1](#).

To report suspected outbreaks of all types, contact the CADE at 800-362-2736. In addition, a new online [varicella outbreak reporting tool](#) is available that child care providers, schools, and other facilities may use to report suspected varicella outbreaks.

For more information on varicella, including links to the outbreak reporting tool, visit idph.iowa.gov/CADE/disease-information/chickenpox.

Rabies bat consultations increasing

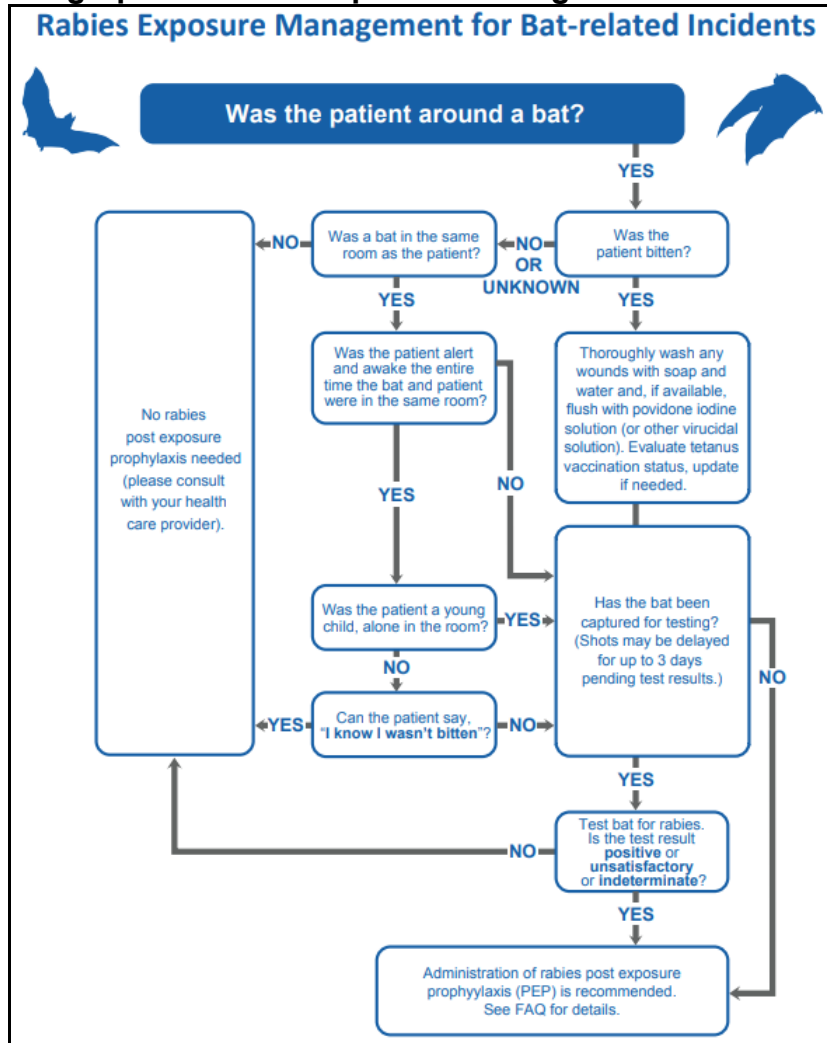
The number of bat consultation calls (humans coming into contact with bats) increases each year around this time. The most common call concerns bats found inside a home.

A person is considered potentially exposed to a bat if they have direct contact with the bat or if they are in the same room as the bat and cannot be sure they weren't bitten (most often because they are a small child or are sleeping). If the bat is captured it can be tested for rabies. Otherwise, it is assumed the bat could have been rabid. The flow chart (below) can help determine if rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is recommended following a bat encounter.

IDPH is available for consultation regarding potential rabies exposures 24/7/365. Call 515-242-5935 during business hours or 515-323-4360 outside of business hours.

For more information about rabies, visit idph.iowa.gov/rabies/information-for-providers.

Infographic: Rabies exposure management for bat-related incidents



To view in full size, visit

idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Files/Rabies/Bat_Rabies_Chart_130618.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

On August 25, IDPH and the Iowa Institute of Public Health Research and Policy will host the 2021 Virtual Learning Collaborative on childhood lead poisoning prevention. The event will be held virtually from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, highlighting programs and services throughout Iowa that have been successful in implementing strategies for preventing childhood lead poisoning. For more information and to register, visit www.public-health.uiowa.edu/2021-virtual-learning-collaborative/.

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
800-362-2736

Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis
515-281-6801