



### **Rabies Advisory: Potential Exposure to Rabid Bat**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is investigating a possible rabies exposure in your community. There was a report of school-aged children at the Country Villa Apartment Homes complex in Castroville, Texas who may have had contact with a bat. The children were in contact with the bat between the end of August and early September.

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the brain. A person may get rabies from a rabid animal when it bites them or the animal's saliva touches their eyes, nose, mouth or a break in the skin.

Bats are of special concern because their bites are small and sometimes cannot be seen. Without medical care, the virus can cause death. There are vaccines available that can prevent the development of rabies in exposed people, but for the treatment to be effective it must be started as soon as possible after exposure.

Parents should ask their children specifically about whether they saw or touched any bats in August or September. Any person who was bitten, scratched, touched a bat with their hands, or had other direct contact with a bat should seek medical attention or call DSHS Region 8 Zoonosis Control at **210-949-2000** or **210-949-2121**.

For more information about bats and rabies, please visit:

- <https://dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/rabies/information.aspx>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

#### **Zoonosis Control – Public Health Region 8**

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