



CAHAN SD

California Health Alert Network San Diego

To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: September 16, 2026

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory: Increase in Reported Human Rabies Exposures

Key Messages

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the accompanying [health alert](#) reporting increases in national human exposures to rabid or potentially rabid animals and errors in post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) administration.
- In [San Diego County](#) there has been an increase in rabies infected bats: as of September 10, 2026, 43 bats have tested positive for rabies, compared to a total of 21 bats in 2025.
- If there is concern for potential rabies exposure, clinicians should conduct a rabies risk assessment and administer rabies PEP based on CDC guidance.

Actions Requested

1. **Conduct** a [rabies risk assessment](#).
2. **Ask** patients about immunocompromising conditions, immunosuppressive medications, and prior rabies vaccination both [in the United States](#) and [outside the country](#).
3. **Be familiar** with the complete CDC [rabies post-exposure prophylaxis guidance](#).
4. **Learn** [common errors when administering rabies PEP](#) and what to do to correct them.
5. **Ask** patients about immunocompromising conditions, immunosuppressive medications, and prior rabies vaccination both [in the United States](#) and [outside the country](#).

Resources

- [Health Advisory: Nationwide Increase in Reported Human Rabies Exposures: Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis Administration | CDC](#)
- [San Diego County Rabies PEP Algorithm | COSD](#)
- [San Diego County Rabies Data | COSD](#)
- [Rabies | COSD](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch

Phone: (619) 692-8499; Fax: (858) 715-6458

Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255

E-mail: cahan@sdcounty.ca.gov

Public Website: <http://sandiegocounty.gov/cahan>

Secure Website: <http://cahan.ca.gov>