

Date: July 29, 2021

To: Zone Medical Department Head – Emergency Medicine – Calgary Zone
Safe Healthy Environments – Calgary Zone
Communicable Disease/Public Health Nurses – Provincial
Public Health Managers – Calgary Zone
Primary Care Network Clinical Leads
Urgent Care Centres

From: Medical Officers of Health – Calgary Zone

Effective July 29th, 2021 Safe Healthy Environments/Environmental Public Health will be streamlining the animal bite/exposure process to expedite reporting of animal bite/exposures and simplify the process for the public to access the information or care they need:

1. Animal exposures that are negligible risk for rabies no longer need to be reported to Calgary Zone Public Health. Please review [Animal Exposure Assessment Algorithm](#) for additional detail on negligible risk exposures. Examples of negligible exposures include:
 - No exposure to saliva of animal
 - Wound from police animal/service animal
 - Wound from family's own domestic dog, cat or ferret in Alberta
 - Wounds from animals that do not typically carry rabies i.e. rabbits, squirrels, gophers, chipmunks, rats, mice, gerbils, hamsters, hedgehogs, woodchucks, groundhogs, muskrats and all bird species, unless the animal is exhibiting unusual behavior and/or appears unhealthy. PEP may be considered if the circumstances are highly unusual.

All patients with an animal exposure that is negligible risk for rabies should receive a copy of the [Patient Care Sheet: domestic dog/cat/ferret animal exposure wound public health follow-up](#).

2. The Medical Officer of Health on-call should only be consulted for high risk rabies exposures (bat or wild animal exposures/bites) that require time-sensitive authorization of rabies PEP, including infiltration of the bite/exposure wound with Rabies Immunoglobulin.

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Public Health
Calgary Zone

All other animal bites/exposures should be reported to Public Health on an [Animal Exposure Investigation Report Form](#), and once completed faxed to the following: Fax: 1.844.670.3621 (clients living within Calgary city limits)
Fax: 403.943.2385 (clients living outside Calgary city limits)

We appreciate all the work done to protect the health of those in and around Calgary. Please distribute to your teams as required.