

BATS & RABIES

DON'T TAKE THE RISK



Rabies is almost always fatal once symptoms begin, but it is preventable with prompt treatment.
WHEN IN DOUBT, GET CHECKED OUT.

BJACH
Bayne-Jones Army
Community Hospital

BATS ARE THE #1 SOURCE OF RABIES IN LOUISIANA

- From 2000–2023, Louisiana reported more rabid bats than any other animal species.
- Bats accounted for 80 confirmed rabies cases—more than skunks (62) and dogs and cats combined (7).
- Rabid bats have been found throughout Louisiana.
- Bat rabies can spread to pets and humans.



YOU MAY NOT KNOW YOU WERE BITTEN

Bat bites can be very small and difficult to see.



ASSUME POSSIBLE EXPOSURE IF:

- A bat is found in a room with a sleeping member of household.
- A bat is found near someone who is intoxicated, unconscious, mentally impaired, or unable to report a bite.
- You had direct contact with a bat and cannot rule out a bite or scratch.

SIGNS THAT MAY INCREASE CONCERN



Active during daylight hours



Unable to fly



Found in unusual locations



Acting strangely

NEVER HANDLE BATS OR OTHER WILDLIFE.

WHAT TO DO IF EXPOSED TO A BAT

DO NOT WAIT FOR SYMPTOMS.

-  Wash the area immediately with soap and water.
-  **GO DIRECTLY TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.**
-  Do not touch, pick up, or try to capture the bat.
-  Notify authorities immediately.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY & PETS

-  Keep pets current on rabies vaccinations.
-  Never handle bats or other wildlife.
-  Teach children: “Love wildlife from a distance.”
-  Prevent bats from entering homes by sealing openings.
-  Report stray animals and unusual wildlife behavior.

TAKE ACTION – SAVE A LIFE

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FOR HOUSING
Call Corvias
337-537-5060
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IN AN EMERGENCY
Call DPW
726-780-0991
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FOR THE BARRACKS
Scan the QR code for ARMA.



SCAN HERE FOR ARMA RESOURCES

**RABIES IS PREVENTABLE.
EARLY TREATMENT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.
WHEN IN DOUBT, GET CHECKED OUT.**

REFERENCES
• Louisiana Department of Health. Rabies Surveillance Reports, 2000–2023.
• Louisiana Office of Public Health. Rabies Fact Sheet.
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Rabies. <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies>

• World Health Organization (WHO). Rabies. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/rabies>

