



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Media Outlets
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
RE: CMDHD Recognizing World Rabies Day
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CMDHD Recognizing September 28 as World Rabies Day

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) is recognizing World Rabies Day on September 28 to raise awareness about rabies and the steps we can all take to prevent it. **Rabies is deadly -- but it's 100% preventable.** The best way to protect your family, pets, and community is to keep your pets' rabies vaccines up to date and report any potential rabies exposure to your local health department right away.

Rabies is found in wild animals and can be spread to humans and pets through bites or scratches. Each year, rabies kills more than 59,000 people around the world, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most of these deaths are preventable with early action.

So far this year, three bats in Isabella County and one bat in Osceola County have tested positive for rabies, which is a big increase for our area. Last year, Roscommon County had one bat test positive for rabies. No animals in CMDHD's jurisdiction tested positive for rabies in 2022 or 2023. One bat tested positive in Isabella County in 2021.

If you or someone you know is bitten or scratched by an animal -- wild or domestic -- report it to CMDHD within 24 hours. Our team will guide you through the next steps, including possible treatment and what to watch for in the animal.

"There are effective methods to prevent and treat rabies, but greater awareness and understanding of the disease and its risks are necessary to eliminate it globally," said Sue Leeson, CMDHD Personal Health Supervisor. "Now, more than ever, local and global communities must work together to get rid of this threat. Using vaccination, awareness, and education, we can eliminate this deadly disease for the people and animals we love. World Rabies Day is just one step in the global strategy, and we encourage our communities to take action to eliminate rabies."

Please visit us online at www.cmdhd.org.

Animal bites must be reported to the health department. Rabies can be fatal, and every potential exposure matters. To learn more or to report an exposure, visit <https://www.cmdhd.org/rabies> or call your local CMDHD office at 989-314-7570. You can also submit a report using CMDHD's [Animal Bite/Rabies Exposure Form](#).

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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To request an interview, please complete our [Media Interview Request Form](#).



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