

North Carolina State University

Environmental Health and Safety Center

Possible Rabies Exposure or Animal Bite Instructions

University Employees and Students

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish a written procedure to address actions that are to be taken after an employee or student experiences an animal bite or potential exposure to rabies.

Definition: Any bite, scratch or other situation in which saliva or central nervous system (CNS) tissue of a potentially rabid mammal enters an open wound, fresh wound, or comes in contact with a mucous membrane by entering the eye, mouth or nose.

- Bite: wound from a tooth that penetrates the skin
- Non-bite: getting saliva or CNS tissue from a potentially rabid animal into an open wound or in the eyes, nose, or mouth

Instruction Listing:

- [Instructions for On-Campus employees during work hours regardless of shift](#)
- [Instructions for Off Raleigh Campus](#)
- [For Post Doc and Student Workers on campus when Student Health Services is open; for after hours refer to instructions outlined above for employees](#)
- [Instructions for student workers when student health center is closed or off-campus student workers](#)

1. Instructions for – On-Campus employees during work hours regardless of shift

1. Employee suffers an exposure as defined above from wildlife mammal (ex: raccoon, skunk, coyote, bat), which will not be vaccinated, regardless of whether wound bleeds or does not bleed OR employee suffers an exposure as defined above from any domestic mammal (e.g.: dog, cat, horse, cow, goat, sheep, pig) that is either not currently rabies vaccinated or has an unknown rabies vaccination history regardless of whether wound bleeds or does not bleed. [In NC, only dogs and cats are required to be rabies vaccinated]
2. If it is a major injury contact Public Safety at 911 from a campus phone or 515-3333 from a cell phone for emergency assistance such as paramedic / ambulance transportation. Wash more minor wounds for 10-15 minutes with soap and water
3. Notify your supervisor as soon as possible
4. Seek medical care at Rex Hospital Urgent Care, daytime: 919-719-2250, located at 3100 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC or Rex Emergency Department at 784-1615 or other hospital emergency room at other hours. [Medical personnel are also required to report bites to animal control and to the public health department]
5. Contact Wake County Animal Control to report or quarantine animal at 919-831-6311, (it may be necessary to observe animal for 10 days to decide if rabies treatment for individual is

needed). [Reporting is required for all bites from any animal in NC although only mammals can transmit rabies]

6. Complete Worker Compensation forms (2) within 48 hours
7. Supervisors for College of Veterinary Medicine personnel and students should also report incidence to Dr Jay Levine 513-6397

2. Instructions for – Off Raleigh Campus

Proceed with steps outlined [above in Section 1](#). Contact animal control in the county in which the bite occurred and seek medical treatment at a local Urgent Care Facility or Hospital Emergency Room. It is advisable to check beforehand since not all urgent care facilities have rabies serum and gamma globulins for post exposure treatment.

Duke Raleigh Emergency Room
3400 Wake Forest Rd.
Raleigh, NC
919-954-3000
(24-Hours)

Rex Hospital Emergency Room
4420 Lake Boone Trail
Raleigh, NC
919-784-1615
(24-Hours)

Rx Urgent Care
3100 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC
Hours: M- F: 8am – 8 pm
Sat: 8 am – 6 pm
Sun.: 10 am – 2 pm

Wake Medical Emergency Room
3000 New Bern Ave
Raleigh, NC
919-350-8000
(24-Hours)

3. Instructions for – Post Doc and Student Workers on Campus when Student Health Services is open; for after hours refer to instructions outlined above for employees

1. Student worker suffers an exposure from any wildlife mammal (ex: raccoon, skunk, coyote, bat), which will not be rabies vaccinated, regardless of whether wound bleeds or does not bleed OR student worker suffers an exposure from any domestic mammal (e.g.: dog, cat, horse, cow, goat, sheep, pig) that is either not currently rabies vaccinated or has an unknown rabies vaccination history regardless of whether wound bleeds or does not bleed. [In NC, only dogs and cats are required to be rabies vaccinated]
2. If it is a major injury, contact Public Safety at 911 from a campus phone or 515-3333 from a cell phone for emergency assistance such a paramedic / ambulance transportation. Wash more minor wounds for 10-15 minutes with soap and water
3. Contact your supervisor as soon as possible
4. Contact Wake County Animal Control to report or quarantine animal at 919-831-6311, (it may be necessary to observe animal for 10 days to decide if rabies treatment for individual is needed). [Reporting is required for all bites from any animal in NC although only mammals can transmit rabies]
5. Proceed to Student Health Services or after hours care (see [Section 4](#)) for advice and treatment
6. Complete Worker Compensation forms (2) within 48 hours

7. Supervisors for College of Veterinary Medicine personnel and students should also report incidence to Dr Jay Levine 513-6397

4. Instructions for – Student workers when Student Health Center is closed or Off-Campus student workers

Instructions for student workers when student health center is closed or off-campus student workers: Proceed with steps outlined in [Section 3](#). Contact animal control in the county in which the bite occurred and seek medical treatment at a local Urgent Care Facility or Hospital Emergency Room. It is advisable to check beforehand since not all urgent care facilities have rabies serum and gamma globulins for post exposure treatment.

NC State Student Health Services Hours

M, W, Th, F: 8 am – 9 pm
Tue: 9 am – 9 pm
Sat: 8:30 am – 11:30 am
Sun. Closed
Summer: 8 am – 4:30 pm

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For questions concerning this document, please contact an EHSC Industrial Hygienist at 919-515-6862.