



Information on Bats and Rabies

If you find a bat in your home, avoid all physical contact. *Do not* try to get the bat to go outdoors. The bat should be safely **captured**, and it should remain in a closed box or bin until you have spoken with the City's Animal Control Warden or Health Department. *Do not* release the bat unless you have been instructed to do so. Once captured, please call the Evanston Police Department at 847-866-5000 so that testing of the bat for rabies can be coordinated through Animal Control. If you do not feel comfortable capturing the bat yourself, confine it to a room and call the Evanston Police Department for assistance at 847-866-5000

After Animal Control has arranged for testing of the bat, the Health Department will assess the risk of rabies from a bat exposure for all people in the home. Most bats do not have rabies, and simply finding a bat in the home is not an indication to start rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. Health Department staff will ask questions to make a recommendation on prophylaxis based on each unique situation.

If you have had any physical contact with a bat or other wild animal, you can also call the health department via Evanston 311 for a rabies risk assessment. Additional information on bats can be found on the Illinois Department of Public Health's [page](#).