



Community Health Alert

September 19, 2025



Alert Categories



Community Health Alert

Conveys the highest level of importance;
warrants immediate action or attention.



Community Health Advisory

Provides important information for a
specific incident or situation; **may not require
immediate action.**



Community Health Update

Provides updated information regarding
an incident or situation; **no immediate
action necessary.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rabies Positive Bat Found in Downtown Pullman

Questions regarding this information may be directed to:

Whitman County Public Health | Disease Prevention Program | DiseasePrevention@whitmancounty.gov

Summary

A bat found on a street between Neill Public Library and nearby downtown businesses in Pullman on September 13, 2025, has tested positive for rabies at the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

Several individuals who had direct contact with the bat have been referred by Whitman County Public Health to their healthcare providers for post-exposure prophylaxis.

This is the first bat to test positive for rabies this year in Whitman County.

Requested Actions

1. **If you or a family member had direct contact with a bat in Pullman in the past 30 days** (for example: bare skin contact with an open wound or scratch, a bite, or contact with eyes, nose, or mouth):
 - **Contact your healthcare provider right away** and tell them you may have been exposed to a rabies-positive bat.
 - **Call Whitman County Public Health's Disease Prevention team** at 509-397-6280 to report the exposure.
2. Do not touch or handle bats or other wild animals, even if they are dead. Teach children not to touch or handle bats or other wild animals.
3. Keep bats out of your living space by bat-proofing your home.
 - Check for and seal small openings in walls, roofs, and attics, especially around vents, chimneys, and eaves. Install screens on windows and doors, and use chimney caps. The best time to bat-proof is in the fall or winter when bats are not raising young.
4. If you find a bat in your living space, call Whitman County Public Health at 509-397-6280 so that they can help determine if the bat needs to be tested for rabies.
 - Only capture bats that have had direct contact with a person or pet or bats found in the room with a person or pet who may have had contact with it.
 - WCPH will advise you on how to safely capture a bat if it needs to be tested for rabies. You can also view a short instructional video from WCPH on safe bat capture.

Background

Rabies is a fatal disease in both people and animals, but it can be prevented with prompt, appropriate medical care and treatment before any symptoms develop.

In Washington, bats are the only known mammal to carry rabies. Washington state is home to many bats, the majority of which are healthy and vital to our ecosystem. Only a small portion of bats carry the rabies virus. However, other mammals, including people, can get rabies from bats. Rabies virus is found in an infected animal's saliva and brain tissue. It is usually spread to people by animal bites or scratches.

Resources

[How to Keep Bats Out of Your Home](#)

[Safely Capturing Bats for Rabies Testing](#)