

Next steps in rabies prevention: Human exposures

This flowchart can be used by rabies response professionals or affected individuals to determine the best next steps in rabies prevention. The Utah DHHS interactive rabies exposure decision-making tool is also available [here](#).

“Exposure” is defined as a bite, scratch, or any contact with saliva or brain/nervous tissue through open cuts in the skin, scratches, or mucous membranes, with the exception of a scratch from a dog, cat, or ferret. Any possibility of contact with a bat is also considered a risk of rabies exposure, since bites or scratches from a bat can be too small to see or feel. If there is uncertainty around exposure (e.g., bat found in a child’s bedroom), proceed as if an exposure did occur.

