

Rabies Pre exposure Vaccination Information for Health Care Providers

Wyoming Department of Health Recommendations for Rabies

Pre exposure vaccination should be offered to all persons whose activities place them at increased risk for being exposed to the rabies virus or to potentially rabid animals (such as Wyoming veterinarians and their staff, veterinary students, animal control personnel, people who work with wildlife, workers who have frequent and close contact with bats, laboratory workers doing rabies diagnostic tests. In addition, pre-exposure vaccination is recommended for persons who plan to spend time in countries where dog rabies is common. See <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/yb/index.htm> for country specific information.

Pre exposure vaccination does not eliminate the need for additional therapy after a rabies exposure, it simplifies therapy by eliminating the need for human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and decreases the number of doses needed. Second, it may protect persons whose post exposure therapy might be delayed. Finally, it may provide partial protection to persons with unapparent exposures to rabies.

Checking a Titer:

Persons living in areas where rabies is endemic (i.e. Wyoming) and who work in the above mentioned occupations should have their rabies titers checked every two years unless they work in a laboratory where rabies testing is done. These people should have rabies titers checked every six months. Samples can be sent to Kansas State University (785-532-4483).

Preexposure Vaccination: Rabies pre exposure prophylaxis can be obtained directly from your local pharmacy. The cost to a hospital for three 1-mL doses of i.m. vaccine is about \$400.

It is given as a series of three injections -- one each on days 0, 7, and 21 or 28. It should only be given intramuscularly (IM).

Details about the [human vaccines](http://healthlinks.washington.edu/nwcp/humanvaccine.html) currently licensed in the U.S. are available at <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/nwcp/humanvaccine.html>.

If you have additional questions about rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis or any other questions about rabies please contact the Wyoming Department of Health Preventive Health and Safety Division at 1-877-996-9000.