



Rabies Vaccine For Humans

What should you do when you have been bitten or scratched by an animal?

Wash the bite or scratch with soap and water as soon as it happens. Talk to your doctor about the bite or scratch. Your doctor will ask you questions about the animal and how it happened. If the doctor wants you to have treatment he or she will call the Health Unit to get the vaccine. The vaccine does not cost you any money. The vaccine will be taken to the doctors' office. The doctor will arrange with you when to come to get the vaccines. The vaccines are given by needle.

Two vaccines are given to prevent you from getting rabies:

1. The first vaccine gives you immediate protection against rabies. It is called human rabies immune globulin or RabIG for short. The RabIG is given by needle. You get this vaccine on the first visit only.
2. The second vaccine is called Rabies Human Diploid Cell Vaccine or HDVC for short. It boosts your body to fight the rabies virus over time. The HDVC is given by needle on 4 different days.(day 0 (this is the first needle), then day 3, day 7, day 14)

If you have never been vaccinated against rabies and

- have an illness or take medicine that has weakened your immune system;
or
- take chloroquine or antimalarials:

You will get one more dose of the HDVC. You get this fifth dose on day 28.

Persons who want to get the vaccine when they have not been bitten or scratched.

People who work with animals need to be vaccinated against rabies. Public Health does not cover the cost or supply the vaccine for this purpose. The vaccine needed to be safe at work is ordered by your doctor and bought from the pharmacy.

For more information call your doctor or contact:

Health Protection Department
(519) 631-9900

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