

Rabies Vaccine (Post Exposure)

Rabies vaccine protects people after they have been bitten, scratched, or licked by an animal with rabies.

What is rabies?

Rabies is a very serious disease. It will kill a person who has not received treatment after contact with an animal that has rabies. The disease can cause confusion, breathing problems, and seizures. These signs may not show up for 2 to 8 weeks. By then, there is no cure and the person will die.

Does the rabies vaccine protect you against rabies?

Yes. The vaccine will protect you if you get all of your needles. Usually five needles are given over a month. These needles are given in addition to Rabies Immune Globulin needles.

Who should get the rabies vaccine?

Anyone who has been bitten, scratched or licked on an open wound or sore by an animal suspected of having rabies should get this vaccine.

When should rabies vaccine be given?

The vaccine should be given as soon as possible to anyone who has had contact with the animal. This includes pregnant women and infants.

Is the rabies vaccine safe?

Yes. Some people have mild pain, swelling, redness or itching for a few days where the needle was given. A few people may have headaches, loss of appetite, stomach pain, muscle aches, or dizziness. Serious side effects are rare.

When should I call my doctor?

Call your doctor if any of these symptoms happen within 3 weeks after being vaccinated:

- Hives
- Vomiting
- High fever
- Convulsions or seizures

... over

Kingston
221 Portsmouth Avenue
Kingston, ON K7M 1V5
Tel: 613-549-1232
1-800-267-7875
Fax: 613-549-7896

Cloyne
P.O. Box 59
14209 Highway 41
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Napanee
41 Dundas Street
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Sharbot Lake
P.O. Box 149
1130 Elizabeth Street
Sharbot Lake, ON K0H 2P0
Tel: 613-279-2151
Fax: 613-279-3997

- Any other serious health problem

Who should NOT get the rabies vaccine?

Everyone should get this vaccine if there is a risk of getting rabies.

Who should I talk to if I have any questions about this vaccine?

Talk to your doctor or call KFL&A Public Health for more information.

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<http://www.gov.on.ca/health/english/pub/immun/rabies.html>

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