

November 2, 2021

To: Police Services, By-Law Enforcement Officers and Veterinarians

Re: Requirement to Report Animal Bites/Scratches to Health Unit

The Health Unit would like to thank you for your continued support in the implementation of the Ontario Rabies Prevention and Control program. Please note that the risk of contracting rabies remains stable in our district. In 2013, two bats tested positive for the rabies virus; one in Mattawa and another in Powassan. There have been no cases of human rabies acquired in Ontario since 1967. An adult dog with rabies was imported from Iran into Ontario in July of 2021 and potentially exposed two dozen people to the virus. The investigation involved Public Health Inspectors over several jurisdictions. We should remain vigilant for the unexpected may occur at any time.

We are sharing with you the updated Ontario Regulation 501/17 which outlines **your duty** to report animal bites/scratches to the Health Unit. The weblink to this document is below;

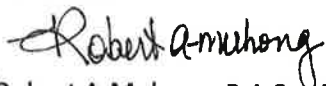
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/R17501>

Public Health is required to initiate an investigation of animal bite/scratch incidents within 24 hours of notification. When reporting animal bite/scratch incidents, please notify us first by telephone and follow up by fax. Please report incidents that occur after 11:00 p.m. on the next morning at 8:00 a.m. The Animal Bite/Scratch Health Unit Notification Form can be found on our website or at the web link below;

<https://www.myhealthunit.ca/en/health-topics/resources/Animal-bites/EH-Rabies-AnimalBite-ScratchHealth-UnitNotificationForm.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at 705-474-1400 or 1-800-563-2808 at extension 5320.

Sincerely,



Robert A-Muhong, B.A.Sc., MPH, CPHI(C)
Program Manager, Environmental Health

RAM/tf

Copy to: Louise Gagné, Executive Director, Community Services
Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer
Dr. Carol Zimbalatti, Public Health Physician

IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONE 1-800-563-2808
Animal Bite/Scratch Health Unit Notification Form
Followed by Fax to Health Unit (705) 474-9481

PATIENT INFORMATION

Name of Patient/Victim: _____
D.O.B: _____ Weight: _____ kg Sex: Male Female
Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code _____
Telephone No.: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____
Name of Parent/Guardian: _____
Physicians Name: _____
Physicians Address: _____
Physicians Telephone: _____

BITE/SCRATCH INFORMATION

Date and Time of Incident: _____ Type of Exposure: _____
Details of Incident: _____
Species of Animal: _____
Animal Owners Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code _____
Telephone No.: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

Temporary Address (location) and duration (if applicable)

Patient/Victim: _____	Telephone No.: _____
Address: _____	Effective to: (date) _____
Animal Owner(s): _____	Telephone No.: _____
Address: _____	Effective to: (date) _____

REPORTING INFORMATION

Name of Facility Reporting: _____
Name of Person Reporting: _____ Signature: _____
Telephone No.: _____ Date: _____

"This information is being collected pursuant to the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O.1990, c.H.7 and will be retained, used, disclosed, and disposed of in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M.56, the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004, S.O.c.3 and all applicable federal and provincial legislation and regulations governing the collection, retention, use, disclosure, and disposal of information. Any questions regarding this collection may be directed to the Personal Health Information Manager at the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 345 Oak Street W., North Bay, ON P1B 2T2, 705-474-1400 / 1-800-563-2808 or at privacy@nbpsdhu.ca."