



Health PEI
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH,
SAFETY, & WELLNESS



SAFETY TALK

Animal Bites

A bite from any animal can be serious and should be examined by a health care professional. Prompt treatment can help to prevent infection or more serious illness. The Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) investigates reports of human exposure to a potentially infected animal to assess the risk of rabies and determine appropriate action, such as post-exposure treatment, animal observation or animal testing. Other individuals or agencies with roles and responsibilities in the management of rabies exposure in PEI include: [Public Health Nursing](#), [PEI Humane Society](#), [Department of Agriculture](#), [Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative](#), [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#)

What do I do if I have been bitten or scratched by an animal?

- Thoroughly **wash the wound** with soap and running water to remove the animal's saliva
- Avoid splashing water into your eyes, nose or mouth
- An **antiseptic** (e.g. hydrogen peroxide) can be applied to wounds not involving the eyes
- If the animal is a pet, get the name, address and phone number of the owner, as well as a description of the animal, even when they claim that the animal's **rabies vaccinations** are up to date
- See your healthcare provider, [Public Health Nursing](#), or visit the [Emergency Department](#) to have the wound cared for
- Report the animal bite immediately to a healthcare provider, [Public Health Nursing](#), [PEI Humane Society](#) or [Environmental Health](#) (902-368-4970).

Animal Bite Incident Form

An animal bite incident form is completed for all animal bite investigations. Additional information related to each section can be found in the [Guidelines for the Management of Possible Rabies Exposure in Prince Edward Island](#).



All wild animal bites are of concern. Once a biting incident involving a wild animal (e.g. fox, raccoon, skunk) or a domestic animal (e.g. pet) is reported, [Environmental Health Officers](#) will ensure that steps are taken to locate the animal, and arrange for testing or observation. Appropriate and timely decisions regarding treatment of persons exposed to the animal are made by [CPHO](#) medical staff.

Source: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/animal-bite-investigations>

Safety is everyone's responsibility!

DATE: _____
FACILITY: _____

SAFETY TALK LEAD BY: _____
DEPARTMENT: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE AM BIT BY AN ANIMAL?

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT MY RABIES VACCINATION STATUS?

EMPLOYEE CONCERNS & IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

FOLLOW UP ON CONCERNS:

If you have any feedback on the Safety Talks program or a suggestion for a Safety Talk, please contact a member of the Wellness & Safety Team or email healthpeihr@ihis.org.

Safety Talks can be found on the Staff Resource Centre at: <https://src.healthpei.ca/safety-talks>