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[www.timiskaminghu.com](http://www.timiskaminghu.com)

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 2024

**TO:** Hospitals (ER staff), Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Family Health Teams,  
Centres de santé communautaire & Emergency Medical Services (First Responders)

**FROM:** Timiskaming Health Unit, Environmental Health Program

**SUBJECT:** **Annual Reminder – Reporting Requirements of Animal Bites**

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The Timiskaming Health Unit is to be notified **as soon as possible** of all reported animal bite/scratch incidents involving a person. During regular office hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., please fax the completed [Animal Exposure Notification \(N-503-I\)](#) form to the Timiskaming Health Unit confidential **fax number 705-647-5779**.

**Should a patient report on an evening, weekend or Statutory Holiday, the physician (or hospital staff) must call the Timiskaming Health Unit's After-Hours On-Call number 705-647-3033.** In addition, the completed form should also be faxed to the above-mentioned confidential fax number.

This is as per the Communicable Disease Regulation R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 557, s. 2 (1), which states:

2. (1) A physician, registered nurse in the extended class, veterinarian, police officer or any other person who has information concerning either or both of the following shall, as soon as possible, notify the medical officer of health and provide the medical officer of health with the information, including the name and contact information of the exposed person."

Information concerning the following shall be included on the attached form:

- any bite from an animal
- any contact with a mammal that may have caused the potential transmission of rabies to a person.

Such animals involved in a potential rabies transmission must be placed under a ten (10) day observation period (or 14 days for livestock). During such time, no other animal or human (aside from the caregiver) is to have any contact with the offending animal. The animal can be confined at the owner's house, or another suitable location approved by the Medical Officer of Health or a Public Health Inspector. The animal is released from the observation period only when the Public Health Inspector authorizes the release following a visual inspection of the animal.

We trust you will give this matter your immediate attention and we appreciate your continued cooperation. Should you require any further information, kindly do not hesitate to contact our office.

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**Resource documents:**

- a. [Timiskaming Health Unit Infectious Disease/Rabies](#) (THU)
- b. [Management of Patients with Suspected Rabies](#) (PHO)
- c. [Management of People after Possible Exposure to Rabies](#) (MOHLTC)
- d. [Animal Exposure Report to THU](#) (N-503-I)
- e. [Potential Rabies Exposure Decision Making Tree](#) (R-599a-I)