

Media Release



Awareness - Brant County Health Unit Media Release – Human Rabies Case September 6, 2024 – For immediate release

The Timiskaming Health Unit is sharing awareness that on Friday September 6, 2024, the Brant County Health Unit issued a media release in regards to the confirmation of a human rabies case within their district. Their media release can be found [here](https://bchu.org/brant-county-health-unit-confirms-rabies-case-in-brantford-brant-resident/) (<https://bchu.org/brant-county-health-unit-confirms-rabies-case-in-brantford-brant-resident/>).

As stated in their release, “While the suspected exposure of the case was in the Gowganda area of the Timiskaming region, bats in all areas of Ontario are known to carry rabies.”

It should be noted that the Timiskaming District has historically been a low risk area for rabies, and this incident is considered very rare. There has never been a human case of rabies confirmed in a Timiskaming District resident.

The following routine precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to the Rabies virus:

- Keep your pets and livestock rabies vaccinations up to date. It’s the law.
- Stay away from and do not touch unfamiliar animals.
- Keep pets away from wildlife.
- Supervise children when they are around animals.
- Do not let pets roam free.
- Feed pets indoors. Feeding pets outdoors can attract other unwanted animals.
- If you have direct contact with a bat, or if any animal known to carry rabies bites or scratches you, immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water. Seek medical attention right away to review your risk and treatment options.

There is no immediate action in relation to this specific incident required for any resident within the Timiskaming District. If further investigation identifies the need for any additional follow up with specific individuals in our district, the Timiskaming Health Unit will contact them directly.

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