### LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION</th>
<th>INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)</th>
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<tr>
<td>RABIES, Human</td>
<td>Rabies Virus</td>
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#### PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION

**KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION**
- Read about Rabies in the CD Manual.
- See the case definition for Rabies in the CD Manual.
- Refer to the NC Veterinary Public Health website at [www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/vet.html](http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/vet.html). Click on the “Rabies Resources for the Medical Professional” section located at the top of the page.
- Print and review reporting forms:
  - Part 1: *Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)*
  - Part 2: *Rabies (DHHS/EPI # 33)*

#### CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION

**COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION**
- Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition.
- If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s), and discharge summary).
- Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition.

**REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION**
- Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease.
- Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied.
- Contact the healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is necessary.

**APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION**
- Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.

#### IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES

**ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE**
- Review clinical documentation for potential source(s) of exposure.
- If potential source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient or other knowledgeable person in an effort to obtain a detailed assessment of potential sources. Consider:
  - travel outside continental US
  - occupational exposure (i.e. pet shop owner/worker, farmer, veterinarian/staff, wildlife worker, lab worker, zookeeper, animal importer, etc.)
  - bat in house or elsewhere
LHD Disease Investigation Steps: Rabies, human

### IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES

- Notify health director and PIO if a significant number of contacts are suspected.
- Consider risk communication messages to public and health professionals.
- Activate Epi Team if indicated.
- Use the CDC website [www.cdc.gov/rabies/](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/) to teach at risk people about the disease.
- Provide information to exposed persons regarding local providers who offer rabies PEP.
- Stress the necessity for prompt treatment, adherence to vaccination schedule, and completion of series. Document the information provided.

### REPORTING INVESTIGATION

**REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)**

- Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered.
- Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.

### CASE FINDING

- During the course of the investigation, identify all potential contacts that may need Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and refer to appropriate healthcare provider.
- Refer symptomatic individuals to medical center immediately while maintaining control measures.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

**STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING**

- Notify the SLPH of impending specimens.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

- Animal control staff, wildlife workers, veterinarians, staff and other persons working with potentially rabid animals should have pre-exposure rabies vaccine.
- Persons having been previously vaccinated with pre-exposure rabies vaccine who continue regular animal exposure should have a titer and/or booster dose every 2 years.
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<th>RISK COMMUNICATION</th>
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<td>• Any case of this disease will pique interest among media, health professionals, government officials and the public.</td>
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<td>• Consider using risk communication tools for public and health professionals.</td>
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<td>• Work with Animal Control and Public Health (CD Branch staff and public health veterinarian) to develop media messages.</td>
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<td>• Cases with multiple contacts may need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and press releases.</td>
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<td>• NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.</td>
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<td>• Notify blood or tissue banks if indicated.</td>
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