

Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Administration Guidance and Schedule for Healthcare Providers

All rabies PEP should begin with immediate thorough cleansing of all wounds with soap and water. If available, a viricidal agent such as a povidone-iodine solution should be used to irrigate the wounds. Patient tetanus vaccination status should also be determined.

The rabies PEP regimens provided are applicable for all age groups, including children, and pregnant women. **Vaccine should never be administered in the gluteal area or near the human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) administration site.** Day 0 is the day the first dose of vaccine is given, not the day the bite occurred. In cases that unexpected, extended delays in administering rabies PEP have occurred (i.e. patient delay in seeking medical care) up to one year following the exposure, PEP should be administered as soon as possible if the patient is not demonstrating signs of encephalitis. In cases that delay is greater than one year from the exposure or that the patient is demonstrating signs of encephalitis, please consult with your county health department.

If rabies PEP is not administered according to the recommended schedule, please consult with your county health department at 352-521-1450, option 2, to determine the appropriate schedule for completing the series.

Administration schedule for persons previously vaccinated in the US since 1982

Product	Route	Site	Dose	#Doses	Schedule
Rabies Vaccine	IM	Deltoid	1.0mL	2	Day 0 and 3

Administration schedule for persons not previously vaccinated

Product	Route	Site	Dose	#Doses	Schedule
Human Rabies Immune Globulin	Infiltrate wound	Wound, if feasible; distant from vaccine (deltoid or quadriceps)	20 IU/kg or 9 IU/lb (0.06mL/lb)	1	Day 0
Rabies Vaccine	IM	Deltoid (or anterolateral thigh for small children)	1.0mL	4	Day 0, 3, 7, and 14
Rabies Vaccine for immunosuppressed patients	IM	Deltoid (or anterolateral thigh for small children)	1.0mL	5	Day 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28 with titer

Details for national rabies PEP guidelines can be found in:
 CDC. Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Post exposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR 2010;59(RR-2):1-9

CDC. Humans Rabies Prevention – United States, 2008 Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR Early Release 2008;57:1-28