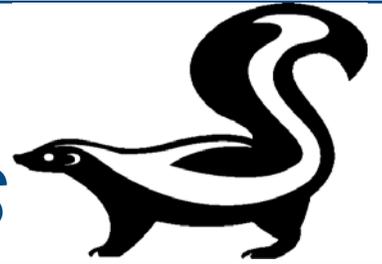


Pre-Exposure Rabies Prophylaxis



Who should receive pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis?

“Pre-exposure vaccination should be offered to persons in high-risk groups such as veterinarians, animal handlers and certain laboratory workers. Pre-exposure vaccination also should be considered for other persons whose activities bring them into frequent contact with rabies virus or potentially rabid bats, raccoons, skunks, cats, dogs, or other species at risk for having rabies.”*

Dosage and Scheduling

Immunization:

Rabies Vaccine:

1 mL IM - [HDCV, PCEC]**
days 0, 7 & 21 or 28

	Day		
	0	7	21 ^{or} 28
Rabies Vaccine	Yes	Yes	Yes

** **HDCV** = Human Diploid Cell Vaccine (Imovax);
PCEC = Purified Chick Embryo Cell Vaccine (RabAvert)

Boosters and Titters:

“... spelunkers, veterinarians and staff, and animal control and wildlife officers where rabies is endemic ... should have a serum sample tested for rabies antibody every 2 years; if the titer is less than complete neutralization at a 1:5 dilution by the RFFIT, the person also should receive a single booster dose of vaccine ...

Booster doses of vaccine should be administered to maintain a serum titer corresponding to at least complete neutralization at a 1:5 dilution by RFFIT.”*

Please note, pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis does not obviate the need for proper post-exposure rabies treatment when warranted.

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Human Rabies Prevention—United States, 1999. *Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)*. MMWR 1999;48(RR-1).

N.C. Dept. of
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