

Rabies Laboratory

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Kansas State Veterinary
DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Rabies diagnostic testing on weekends and holidays

Rabies diagnostic testing of animals that are suspected to have exposed a human or animal to rabies is a medical urgency, not a medical emergency. Exposures include bites or scratches; or open wounds or mucous membrane contact with saliva/infected tissues from the suspect animal.

Requests for rabies diagnostic testing on weekends or holiday should be directed to the local health department to determine the need to call in a rabies diagnostician to perform the testing during off-hours. The local health department should consult with the state department of health. As a secondary option, notify the rabies diagnostician or Rabies Laboratory Director to coordinate the case evaluation (contact the **Emergency Desk at (785) 532-5690** to reach the rabies diagnostician or lab director).

In Kansas contact Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response section at 1-877-427-7317; contact information for local health departments can be found at; <http://www.kdheks.gov/> The link is on the right hand side of the page under the heading 'What People Want to Know'. Select the Kansas Public Health Directory.

In Nebraska contact Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) Office of Epidemiology at (402) 471-2937; contact information for local health departments can be found at http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/puh_oph_lhd.aspx

Generally cases to be under consideration for emergency testing will include:

- Bite exposure.
- Suspect animal is clinically ill with no history of prior vaccination and has signs consistent with rabies infection.
- The health department or other health provider has been contacted and is ready to administer PEP if the result of testing is positive.