

Rabies and Tetanus

Don't Risk It. Seek Medical Attention Immediately.



While rabies is a viral infection and tetanus is caused by bacteria, both diseases rapidly attack the body's nervous system and cause permanent and often fatal damage if left untreated. If you have been bitten by an animal (wild or domestic) or suffered some other laceration or wound, you could be at risk for either.

Facts about Rabies

- While rabies is a preventable viral disease, more than 55,000 people around the world die every year due to delayed treatment. The disease is transmitted through the saliva and brain/nervous system tissue of infected animals.
- The most common carriers of rabies are foxes, raccoons, skunks, bats, various rodents, lagomorphs (rabbits and hares), dogs, and cats.
- Weeks or months may pass after a bite before the appearance of symptoms.
- Once clinical signs of rabies appears, the disease is nearly always fatal.
- Symptoms include flu-like symptoms, paralysis, insomnia, abnormal behavior, and hallucination.
- If bitten, see your doctor immediately for medical treatment and a post-exposure rabies vaccination evaluation.

Facts about Tetanus



- Tetanus is a serious bacterial infection that can take over the body's nervous system, causing lockjaw, swallowing and/or breathing difficulty, severe muscle spasms, and seizures. In infants, it can result in cerebral palsy and lasting brain damage.
 - While exposure to rusty nails is a common way to contract tetanus, the bacteria can be contracted from animal bites, splinters, piercings, tattoos, gunshot wounds, burns, crash injuries, compound fractures, infections, and dental/surgical wounds.
- Tetanus toxoid found in the DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis) vaccine can prevent the disease. The vaccine is available at the Clayton County Board of Health and many local doctor's offices.

For more information about rabies or tetanus contact the
CCBOH Immunization Department
at **(678) 610-7199 ext. 7361**
or visit **www.claytoncountypublichealth.org**