



**Riverside County
Public Health**

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Riverside County student makes contact with rabies-infected bat

Riverside County health officials are working with the parents of a San Jacinto High School student who had contact with a bat that later tested positive for rabies. The student, who was not identified, came in contact with the bat earlier this week.

Riverside County Disease Control contacted school officials to determine if any other students or staff may have come in contact with the animal.

“People should avoid touching bats since they are high risk for rabies,” said Barbara Cole, Director of Disease Control for Riverside County Department of Public Health.

This is the fourth incident in Riverside County in recent months in which a person has come in contact with a bat that later was determined to have rabies. Rabies can also occur in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks and foxes.

Cole recommends avoiding contact with wild animals at all times. Exposure can happen even when a bite or scratch has not occurred. Anyone who believes they have been exposed should consult their health care provider.

Residents within Riverside County Animal Services jurisdiction can call 951-358-7387 if they find a bat on their property or inside their home.

For more information on what to do if you believe you have been infected, call Riverside County Disease Control number at 951-358-5107.

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