



635 North Erie Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604-5317
419.213.4100
419.213.4017 Fax
boardofhealth@co.lucas.oh.us



Karim Baroudi, MPH, REHS
Health Commissioner

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Sarantou, President
Amr Elaskary, CPA, CFE, Vice President
Cheryl Crowder, RN, BSN
Sonia Flunder-McNair
Ted Kaczorowski
David Karmol
Paul J. Komisarek
Richard L. Munk, MD
Susan Postal, EMT-P
Johnathon Ross, MD
Matthew Sapara
Donna A Woodson, MD

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Department operates in
accordance with Title VII of the
Civil Rights Act of 1964

Visit us on the web at:
www.lucascountyhealth.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Burnette, PIO
(419) 309-0153

July 10, 2025

Bat Tests Positive for Rabies

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has confirmed a bat recently collected in Lucas County has tested positive for rabies. This is the first confirmed rabies-positive bat in the county this year.

“It’s important not to handle wild animals, to be aware of animals acting unusual, and to keep pets vaccinated against rabies,” said Karim Baroudi, Health Commissioner.

Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system in humans and other mammals. A person may contract rabies through a bite, scratch, or saliva from an infected animal. A bat bite or scratch may not be seen or even felt by the injured person due to the small size of bats’ teeth and claws. *Potential rabies exposure should never be taken lightly. If untreated, rabies is fatal.*

Animals with rabies may not necessarily be aggressive or behave erratically. Changes in any animal’s normal behavior can be early signs of rabies. Bats that are on the ground, unable to fly, or active during the day are more likely than others to be rabid. Such bats are often easily approached but should never be handled.

Bats are active this time of year, increasing the risk of exposure to rabies. Lucas County residents should take steps to prevent the spread of rabies:

- If a bat is in your home, **do not** release the bat outdoors until **after** speaking with animal control or public health officials. It may be possible to test the bat and avoid the need to receive rabies treatment.
- Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
- Keep vaccinations up to date for all dogs, cats, ferrets, and other animals you own.

Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-28 states: “Whenever a person is bitten by a dog or other animal, report of such bite shall be made within 24 hours to the health commissioner of the district in which such bite occurred.” Please call the Health Department at 419-213-4100 option 4 to report a bite or with additional questions.

For additional resources on animal bites and rabies, please visit:

<http://www.lucascountyhealth.com/community-health/animal-bites/>

###