

# BAT INFORMATION

## FOR NEWTON RESIDENTS

If there is a bat in your home, here's what to expect if you call for help.



### Type of contact...

**Possible contact** exists if a bat was close to an unattended child, a sleeping person, an impaired person or a pet.

If a person or pet had **direct contact** (bite, scratch, or other physical contact), the bat should be tested for rabies.

**No possibility of contact?**  
Let the bat go.



Call **617-796-2100**.  
Police non-emergency line to find out if an Animal Control Officer (ACO) is available.

**Available ACO**

**Unavailable ACO**

ACO will capture the bat and arrange for euthanizing (if needed) and transport to the state lab for testing.

The resident can capture the bat him/herself, call a pest control company at his/her own expense to capture it & deliver to the lab, or wait for the ACO to return. If the resident captures the bat, it should be **refrigerated** in a **clear plastic container** until the ACO is available to pick it up.

### Results

Typically available within 1-2 days (except weekends & holidays).



**Positive** or unsatisfactory rabies results typically mean preventive rabies shots are recommended for exposed people. You will hear from a state epidemiologist about what to do next.



**Negative** rabies results (which occur the vast majority of the time) mean no preventive rabies shots are needed.

**QUESTIONS? CALL the ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS AT (617) 796-2109. Health related questions may be directed to the Health Department at (617) 796-1420, or to the state epidemiologist (24/7) at 617-983-6800.**