

General Guidelines for Management of Bat-Related Incidents at Childrens' Camps

Bats observed flying at night outside

- provide general education to all camp staff and camp attendees about bats and risk of rabies, avoiding exposures, and reporting possible exposures

Bat observed flying outside in daytime

- provide general education to all camp staff and camp attendees about bats and risk of rabies, avoiding exposures, and reporting possible exposures (note: if bat appears to be aggressively and deliberately swooping at people, keep campers away from area, capture bat, and submit for rabies testing)

Bat found outside grounded or roosting in camper accessible location

- restrict access to area
- temporarily contain bat, for example with an inverted pail or coffee can
- capture bat
- report incident to local health department
- submit bat for rabies testing

Bat flying in or roosting in camper-occupied building

Building large, no children are present unattended:

- evaluate situation for potential risk, consider exclusion and batproofing as soon as possible

Building small, leading to close proximity of bat to occupants, and children are present:

- leave one person in building to observe bat
- remove campers from building, as well as adults who will not be involved in capturing the bat
- make a list of building occupants while they exit the building or immediately afterwards
- capture bat
- report incident to local health department
- submit bat for rabies testing

Bat present indoors with sleeping adults or unattended children

- leave one person in building to observe bat

- remove campers from building, as well as adults who will not be involved in capturing the bat
- make a list of building occupants while they exit the building or immediately afterwards
- capture bat
- report incident to local health department
- submit bat for rabies testing

Known or suspected contact with a bat

- capture bat
- immediately make list of those with possible contact
- have those persons with possible contact wash the area of potential contact with soap and water
- report incident to local health department
- submit bat for rabies testing
- depending on severity, consider having wounds evaluated by health care provider for medical treatment