Bat Exposure

Anyone who encounters a bat should be evaluated by a medical professional for risk of rabies.

Encounters with a bat include:
- Direct contact with a bat = bat bite or bat saliva in your eyes, nose, mouth or fresh wound.
- Finding a bat in the same room of a person who might be unaware that a bite or direct contact had occurred.
  * a deeply sleeping person awakens to find a bat in the room
  * or an adult witnesses a bat in the room with a previously unattended child, mentally disabled person, or intoxicated person

If you discover a bat in your home or cabin:
- DO NOT TOUCH THE BAT
- Call Animal Control if available in your area, (509) 762-9616.
- Call the Grant County Health District to determine if the bat needs to be tested for rabies
  Monday-Thursday, (509) 766-7960.
  After hours and weekends, (509) 398-2083.
- If the bat does not need to be tested follow “How can I safely capture a bat in my home”. See instructions to the right.

If you are bitten by a bat:
- Wash the wound with soap and water
- Get medical attention within 24 hours
- The medical provider should immediately report the bat bite to the Grant County Health District

To avoid possible exposure to rabies:
- Do not touch live or dead bats
- Teach children not to touch live or dead wild animals
- Make sure your home’s open windows have screens
- Vaccinate pet dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies as required by Washington State law (WAC 246-100-197)

Related Links:
- Rabies Information (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Rabies Activity in Washington State (Washington State Department of Health)