



County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Human Rabies Vaccine in Short Supply

Woodland—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced last week that two human rabies vaccine manufacturers, Novartis Vaccines and Sanofi Pasteur, have limited supplies of human rabies vaccine, which creates the need for judicious use of these products by health care providers. Currently, distribution of vaccine for pre-exposure prophylaxis needs to be approved by state and federal public health authorities and is only being given for those individuals at greatest rabies exposure risk.

“We are taking this opportunity to remind the public to take appropriate precautions to avoid rabies exposure” states Dr. Bette Hinton, Yolo County Health Officer. “Rabies is 100% preventable, but is also 100% fatal if not treated in time.” Appropriate precautions include vaccination of pets and livestock that have close human contact, and avoiding stray and wild animals, especially those who are acting sick or aggressive. According to the CDC, such precautions will decrease the need for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis and thus allow for the responsible management of currently limited vaccine supplies.

If you are bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, or if you find a bat inside your home, whether or not it has bitten anyone, promptly contact the Health Department or Animal Services. If the animal is loose or stray, it is important to call Animal Control immediately, so that they can properly contain the animal. Do not try to contain the animal unless you can do so without damage or injury to yourself.

Yolo County Environmental Health can be contacted at (530) 666-8646 during business hours, or for evenings and weekends (530) 666-8900. Yolo County Animal Services is available at (530) 668-5287.

For more information about bats and rabies, please view the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) informative brochure on the Yolo County Health Department’s website at <http://www.yolocounty.org/org/health/bulletins/bats.asp>.

For a website designed especially for helping children learn about rabies, please visit the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/kidsrabies/FastFacts/rabies.htm>.

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