

Comprehensive Risk Assessment

The health and safety of its students, program personnel, and animals is a top priority for Penn Foster College’s Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technician degree program (“the Program”). Students and prospective students are advised to review the information below to help inform them of rabies prevalence in the region they will be performing clinical skills. Individuals working in the veterinary field are generally considered at high risk for encountering zoonotic diseases due to their daily interactions with animals, including rabies.

Before beginning their externship, students should consult their physician to determine and procure any immunizations and/or preventive health procedures. Students are strongly encouraged but not required to have received the human rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis vaccine series before their externship. The program does not assist with any cost or fees in relation to obtaining the human rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis vaccine series. The CDC website has information on patient assistance programs for the underinsured. Students are encouraged to contact their health insurance provider to inquire about coverage.

For United States rabies surveillance info:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html>

RABIESAWARE.ORG

For information on rabies round the world:

https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/country-data/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Frabies%2Fcountry-risk%2Findex.html

Location	Main reservoir	Total Wildlife cases (1/1/25 - 12/31/25)	Total Domestic Cases (1/1/25 - 12/31/205)	Cases of rabies in humans in the US (1/1/24 -12/31/25)	State Government Surveillance Data Links
Alabama	Raccoon	33	2	0	https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/rabies.html
Alaska	Arctic fox	46 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html
Arizona	Skunk	117	1	0	https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/rabies/#data-publications-maps
Arkansas	Skunk	17	0	0	https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/rabies#Maps%20and%20Data
California	Bat	282	1	1	https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/pages/reportedanimalrabies.aspx

Colorado	Bat	69	0	0	https://cdphe.colorado.gov/animal-related-diseases/rabies/rabies-data
Connecticut	Raccoon	32 (2024)	4 (2024)	0	https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Epidemiology-and-Emerging-Infections/Rabies-Statistics
Delaware	Bat	4 (2023)	3 (2023)	0	https://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/dpc/rabies.html
District of Columbia	Raccoon	5 (2023)	0	0	https://dchealth.dc.gov/publication/2019-2022-comparative-rabies-surveillance-summary
Florida	Raccoon	100	14	0	https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/rabies-surveillance.html
Georgia	Raccoon	171 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html
Hawaii <i>*Rabies free*</i>	NA	0	0	0	https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/ai/aqs/
Idaho	Bat	11	0	1	https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/diseases-conditions/rabies
Illinois	Bat	48	1	0	https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/rabies/surveillance-map-archive.html
Indiana	Bat	12	0	0	https://www.in.gov/rabies/rabies-by-the-numbers/
Iowa	Bat	20 (2024)	0 (2024)	0	https://hhs.iowa.gov/health-prevention/animal-safety-and-disease-prevention/rabies#rabies-status-assessment-by-country https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/18440/download?inline
Kansas	Bat	17	8	0	https://www.ksvdl.org/laboratories/rabies-laboratory/diagnostic-test/rabies-results/
Kentucky	Skunk	23	0	1	https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Rabies.aspx
Louisiana	Skunk	6 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html
Maine	Raccoon	48	2	0	https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/zoonotic/rabies/index.shtml
Maryland	Raccoon	189 (2024)	14 (2024)	0	https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/CZ/VBD/pages/Data-and-Statistics.aspx
Massachusetts	Raccoon	107	3	0	https://www.mass.gov/lists/annual-rabies-surveillance-reports
Michigan	Bat	42	0	1	https://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/home/rabies
Minnesota	Bat	58 (2024)	10 (2024)	1 (2024)	https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/dcn/rabies.html

Mississippi	Bat	3 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html
Missouri	Bat	30	2	0	https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/rabies/dashboard.php
Montana	Skunk	9 (2024)	0 (2024)	0	https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/rabies
Nebraska	Skunk	40	0	0	https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Rabies-Data.aspx
Nevada	Bat	12 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html
New Hampshire	Raccoon	28	0	0	https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt476/files/documents2/rabies-2025.pdf
New Jersey	Raccoon	128	24	1	https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/rabies-stats/
New Mexico	Skunk	12	1	0	https://www.nmhealth.org/about/erd/ideb/zdp/rab/#:~:text=Activity%20in%20New%20Mexico&text=There%20were%20eight%20Animal%20Rabies,bats%20from%20Dona%20Ana%20County.
New York	Raccoon	223	18	0	https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Positive-Rabies-Samples-by-County/sefu-p2ta
North Carolina	Raccoon	228	31	0	https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/rabies/figures.html
North Dakota	Bat	2	1	0	https://www.hhs.nd.gov/health/diseases-conditions-and-immunization/rabies
Ohio	Bat	19	0	0	https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/media/rabies-map
Oklahoma	Skunk	32	15	0	https://oklahoma.gov/health/health-education/acute-disease-service/rabies/rabies-surveillance-data-and-statistics.html
Oregon	Bat	19	0	0	https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/diseasesconditions/diseasesaz/rabies/pages/rabies.aspx
Pennsylvania	Raccoon	261	56	0	https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Animals/AHDServices/diseases/Pages/Rabies.aspx
Rhode Island	Bat	28	1	0	https://health.ri.gov/data/rabies-data
South Carolina	Raccoon	86	15	0	https://dph.sc.gov/diseases-conditions/infectious-diseases/animal-borne-diseases/rabies/data-reports-rabies
South Dakota	Skunk	10	1	0	https://doh.sd.gov/health-data-reports/data-dashboards/rabies-dashboard/
Tennessee	Skunk	16 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html
Texas	Bat	396	42	0	https://www.dshs.texas.gov/rabies/rabies-cases/rabies-maps/2025
Utah	Bat	22 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://epi.health.utah.gov/rabies/

Vermont	Racoon	66	0	0	https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/zoonotic-diseases/rabies
Virginia	Racoon	318	33	0	https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/epidemiology-fact-sheets/rabies/
Washington	Bat	16 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html
West Virginia	Racoon	46 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html
Wisconsin	Skunk	38 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html
Wyoming	Skunk	19 (2023)	0 (2023)	0	https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html

This document is reviewed and updated yearly by the Academic Director, Veterinary. Last updated 6/4/2026

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Rabies in the United States: Protecting public health*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved June 4, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/php/protecting-public-health/index.html>