



County of Erie

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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HEALTH ADVISORY #207 - 1 RABIES VACCINE AIRDROP

July 26, 2007
edited: Aug. 3, 2007

NOTE CORRECTED CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

Please distribute to the Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, First Responders and Public Safety Answering Points.

SUMMARY

The Erie and Niagara County Departments of Health, in conjunction with the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell University, will be continuing their raccoon rabies vaccination initiative. Beginning on **Tuesday, July 31, 2007 and running through Thursday, August 2, 2007** a helicopter will be used for the distribution of the vaccine throughout rural areas of these Counties. In the event of rain, the **alternate distribution** of vaccine will take place **Friday, August 3, 2007 and Saturday, August 4, 2007.**

An additional fixed-wing aircraft rabies vaccine drop will take place in Western New York starting on **August 13, 2007.**

A helicopter will depart from Niagara Falls International Airport to drop rabies vaccine-laden bait packets throughout the rural areas of Erie and Niagara Counties.

It is important to stress that the baits are not harmful to people, pets, or wildlife. The baits consist of a 3" X 3" formed brown square of fishmeal, a wax binder, and fish oil. The bait packet also has a telephone number stamped on it. The vaccine chamber in the center of the bait is filled with an oral rabies vaccine that is licensed for use against raccoon rabies in the United

States and Canada. The bait will not attract raccoons to a property; raccoons that are already in the area will encounter the baits.

If you find baits, do not disturb them. Please keep pets on leashes so that wild animals may eat the baits. If a pet picks up a bait packet, do not risk being bitten while attempting to remove the bait from the animal's mouth.

If someone is exposed to bait or vaccine, or if your pet eats a bait packet or brings one home, please call **1-877-722-6725** to report the occurrence, since it is important to know if domestic animals are attracted to a specific type of bait.

For additional questions, please contact the Erie County Department of Health at (716) 961-7524.

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary