



635 North Erie Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604-5317
419.213.4100
419.213.4017 Fax
boardofhealth@co.lucas.oh.us



Karim Baroudi, MPH, REHS
Health Commissioner

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Amr Elaskary, CPA, CFE, President
David Karmol, Vice President
Cheryl Crowder, RN, BSN
Sonia Flunder-McNair
Ted Kaczorowski
Paul J. Komisarek
Richard L. Munk, MD
Susan Postal, EMT-P
Johnathon Ross, MD
Matthew Sapara
Barbara Sarantou
Donna A Woodson, MD

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Department operates in
accordance with Title VII of the
Civil Rights Act of 1964

Visit us on the web at:
www.lucascountyhealth.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sarah Velliquette, PIO
(419) 309-0153

August 13, 2026

Rabies-Positive Bat confirmed in Lucas County

A bat collected in Lucas County has tested positive for rabies, marking the first confirmed rabies-positive bat in the county this year.

Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system in humans and other mammals. A person can contract rabies through a bite, scratch, or contact with saliva from an infected animal. Because bats have very small teeth and claws, a bite or scratch may not be visible or even felt. Potential exposure to rabies should always be taken seriously. If left untreated, rabies is fatal.

Animals with rabies do not necessarily appear aggressive or behave abnormally. Changes in an animal's normal behavior can be an early sign of rabies. Bats found on the ground, unable to fly, or active during the daytime are more likely to be rabid. These bats may be easy to approach, but they should never be handled.

Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) officials are reminding residents that bats are more active during the summer months, and Lucas County residents should do the following to prevent the spread of rabies:

- If a bat enters your home, do not release it outdoors until you have spoken with animal control or public health officials. The bat may be able to be tested, potentially avoiding the need for rabies treatment.
- Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, whether wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
- Keep vaccinations up to date for all dogs, cats, ferrets, and other animals you own.

Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-28 states: "Whenever a person is bitten by a dog or other animal, report of such bite shall be made within 24 hours to the health commissioner of the district in which such bite occurred."

To report an animal bite, an [online form](#) can be found and submitted on the TLCHD website at www.lucascountyhealth.com.

For additional resources on animal bites and rabies, please visit:
<http://www.lucascountyhealth.com/community-health/animal-bites/>

###