

BEWARE OF BATS!

About 10% of bats in British Columbia are infected with Rabies. Rabies is a virus that is spread to humans from sick bats through bites, scratches, saliva or touching. Rabies is a serious disease and **will** cause death if not treated quickly.

To prevent Rabies:

- ♦ Vaccinate your pet dogs or cats.
- ♦ Do not touch bats... **ever**.
- ♦ If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, wash the wound well with soap and water.
- ♦ If you find a bat in your house, leave the room right away. Call the Communicable Disease Program or [HealthLinkBC](#) at 8-1-1 (a free call).
- ♦ If you have **any** contact with a bat, including situations when a bat is in the room and you cannot exclude any possible bite, scratch or mucous membrane exposure (e.g. in a room with a bat, sleeping in a room/tent with a bat), **immediately** call the Island Health Communicable Disease Program, or go to the nearest hospital for a Rabies vaccination.

For more information:

- ♦ Island Health Communicable Disease Program:
South Island: 1-866-665-6626
Central Island: 1-866-770-7798
North Island: 1-877-887-8835
- ♦ [HealthLinkBC](#) at 8-1-1 (a free call)