



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Governor

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Janie Miller
Secretary

September 30, 2009

RE: RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (RABIES PEP)

Dear Kentucky Healthcare Provider:

Due to an increase in production of Sanofi Pasteur's Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG) and rabies vaccine called IMOVAX (Human diploid cell line), a password issued by the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) is no longer required to order either of these products. During the product shortage, KDPH found the exchange between health care providers and local and state health departments in assessing need for rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to be very beneficial. We wish to thank the medical community for its cooperation during this time and encourage continued consultation with our program in rabies exposure cases, despite the change in password requirements.

Rabies PEP has historically been over-prescribed in Kentucky because of inadequate evaluation of the true risk of rabies exposure when compared to current epidemiologic confirmed disease cases and method of transmission of the disease. The consultation process necessitated by the product shortage positively benefited the public in that human-animal encounters were more closely reviewed before prescribing PEP, leading to more appropriate use of rabies PEP. As a result, KDPH will continue to work with Kentucky health care providers, local health departments and pharmacists to offer consultation services for those medical providers who wish to receive assistance in accurately assessing the need for rabies PEP, given the known facts of the situation. The telephone number for consultations during regular business hours (8 AM- 4:30 PM Eastern time) is 502-564-3418 ext 3569. After hours, please call 888-9REPORT (888-973-7678).

The prescribing of rabies PEP is a reportable condition in Kentucky. After prescribing rabies PEP, the completed **Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Report Form** should be faxed to the local health department. A copy of the form is attached, but can also be found online at:

<http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/ronlyres/9AE49C9E-FB77-4158-B226-C8B2F149F3D5/15202/KentuckyReportableDiseaseForm2003.pdf>

Written information about rabies PEP is available on-line from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/RabVaxupdate.html> and from the KDPH at <http://www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/epi/rabies.htm>.

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A second enclosure is a new Kentucky DPH algorithm about "**Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Protocol for People Exposed to Animals.**" This algorithm was adapted, with permission, from the Michigan Department of Community Health.

As a reminder, animal bites are reportable conditions in Kentucky. Please report animal bites within 12 hours to the local health department.

Sincerely,

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Encl: Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Report Form
Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Protocol for People Exposed to Animals