



### How can you catch a bat safely ?

When catching a bat, it is important to take the following precautions:

- Always wear thick gloves.
- Isolate the bat in a room by closing doors and windows. Get other people out of the room.
- Avoid touching the bat, even with gloves on.
- If the bat is **alive**, wait until it lands. Place a container over the bat to trap it. Slide a hard piece of cardboard under the opening of the container and then tape it tightly to prevent all contact with the bat. Place the trapped bat in a safe place.
- If the bat is **dead**, use a shovel to put it in a thick bag lined with a second bag. Put the bags in the freezer.
- Remove your gloves and wash your hands with soap and water.
- If you haven't already done so, call Info-Santé 811. The respondent will tell you the measures to take, considering the situation.

For any medical information on rabies,  
consult Info-Santé 811.

Québec.ca

# WATCH OUT!

## A BAT!

What if it had rabies...

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## What is a bat?

Bats are useful flying mammals that feed on harmful insects. Killing them is illegal. A way must be found to chase them away once they establish themselves in human dwellings. Avoid coming into contact with them when chasing them away because they may be rabid. Summer is usually the time when people become aware that bats have taken up residence in their attics. The best time for removing bats from the home is between October and May. Removal shouldn't occur after the beginning of June, because the pups have been born but cannot yet fly. As a result, their mothers will constantly try to get back to them. In early fall, bats generally leave attics to hibernate in caves or disused mines.



## What is rabies virus?

Rabies virus is a 100% incurable and fatal brain disease for humans. A small proportion of bats are infected with the virus and can transmit it to humans. Fortunately, there is a rabies vaccine that prevents the disease from developing, when administered after exposure to an infected bat.

**WATCH OUT!**  
A RABIES-INFECTED BAT  
MAY APPEAR  
TO BE COMPLETELY  
NORMAL.

**NEVER  
TOUCH A BAT!**

## How is rabies virus transmitted?

Rabies virus is present in the saliva of infected bats. It can be transmitted to humans by a bite or scratch, even just a small one.



**ANYONE WHO HAS TOUCHED  
OR BEEN TOUCHED BY A BAT  
SHOULD WASH THE AFFECTED PART OF THE BODY  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH SOAP AND WATER  
FOR 10 TO 15 MINUTES,  
THEN CALL INFO-SANTÉ 811.**

## WATCH OUT!

Wounds inflicted by bats, such as bites, etc., may go unnoticed. That is why anyone who has touched or been touched by a bat and cannot exclude a bite, scratch, or contact of the animal's saliva with a wound or mucous membrane should:

- Wash exposed skin for 10 to 15 minutes with soap and water as soon as possible after contact.
- Contact Info-Santé 811, as a rabies vaccination may be needed.
- **Catch the bat for analysis, if possible (see over for the method). If the animal does not have rabies, a vaccination is not necessary.**