

Comprehensive Rabies Mitigation Plan *Parkland College Veterinary Technology*

Rabies is a fatal, zoonotic disease that can affect certain mammals. Rabies in humans can be prevented either by eliminating exposures to rabid animals or by providing exposed persons with prompt local treatment of wounds combined with appropriate postexposure prophylaxis (including both passive antibody administration and active immunization with cell culture vaccines). In addition, pre-exposure vaccination should be offered to persons in high-risk groups, such as veterinarians, animal handlers, and certain laboratory workers. Student safety must be considered above financial challenges.

1. Vaccination of animals (cats, dogs, horses, food and fiber species).
 - Documentation of Rabies vaccination of all appropriate species within every medical record including date acquired, date vaccinated, holding dates for all animal resource locations. Includes a comprehensive list of all animal resources to include faculty and student sourced animals.
 - Documentation of animals with unknown status including holding period.

On- campus vaccination of animals: All appropriate species (dogs and cats) housed on the Parkland College campus will either be vaccinated for Rabies prior to being on campus or they will be vaccinated within 48 hours of their arrival. Records will be kept on-campus.

Off- campus animals (at large animal teaching sites and all clinical sites): It is not feasible for us to document vaccination of off-campus animals. Student Rabies vaccination will be required prior to handling animals off-campus.

2. Hold/seroconversion period post Rabies vaccination (per CDC-28 days).
 - Documentation of holding period including location and handling procedures during the hold

On- campus animals: All on-campus animals will have documentation of Rabies vaccine dates/locations.

Off- campus animals: We will not be able to have documentation of this information for off-campus animals. Student Rabies vaccination will be required prior to handling animals off-campus.

3. Hold/observation period for vaccinated animals exposed to rabies (45 days, per *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2016*).
 - Dogs, cats, ferrets, and livestock current on rabies vaccination with an approved USDA-licensed vaccine should be observed and given a booster vaccination immediately.

- Documentation of booster vaccination and hold period including location and handling procedures during the hold.

Animals with known exposure to Rabies will not be held for observation in our program. Other arrangements will be made should this occur.

4. Communication to external parties – animal sources, off-campus sites, externship sites.
 - Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) must include rabies notification showing either the animals or the students are vaccinated. If not, the document must list all the timelines for holding unknown animals.

This communication will be added into our MOUs for our off- campus sites as they are renewed. Students must be vaccinated against Rabies to attend off- campus sites.

5. Communication to internal parties.
 - Documentation that CEO/President and general counsel of institution has been provided comprehensive information about Rabies as a disease and has signed off on a) student* vaccination policy and b) comprehensive rabies mitigation plan. **Veterinary Technology Students, Health Professions, Parkland College*

Upon approval of this policy, we will document the signatures of necessary officials.

Pursuant to the 24 hour reporting obligations of the Vice President for Student Services (VPSS), under Parkland Policy 3.06 and IL Administrative Code Part 77 Sections 690.100 and 690.200, the VPSS will be notified of any cases of human rabies, animal rabies, or potential human exposure to animal rabies immediately upon discovery. Notification should include all relevant case information and any reporting completed by Parkland Health Professions faculty, staff, or students as part of their professional obligations.

The Parkland College Veterinary Technology Program Director will keep proof of Rabies vaccination in each student's file.

6. Communication to students.
 - Documentation of comprehensive Rabies information provided to students indicating student awareness of risk to a fatal disease during the program and in the profession. Explain when the information is made available to applicants and/or students and whether applicants and/or students must sign a recognition form.

Upon acceptance into the Parkland College Veterinary Technology Program, students will be informed of the requirement to be vaccinated against Rabies. This information is also provided on our program page and in our course catalog. Risk will also be discussed, and a waiver will be signed stating:

The risk for Rabies exposure is dependent upon the geographical location of the Instruction Site, the type of animals to which the student is exposed, and the degree of contact with potentially exposed animals. Students are required to be vaccinated for Rabies.

- Documentation of contact tracing of any students that worked with any unvaccinated animals in the event the animal shows signs of or is diagnosed with rabies.

Documentation of contact tracing is not feasible for our off-campus sites. Students must be vaccinated against Rabies prior to handling animals at off-campus sites. If an animal tests positive for Rabies that was handled by a student, that student will be directly contacted.

- Documentation of PPE provided for students working with live animals.

Gloves are always made available. Students working with small animals need to wear a clean scrub top. Students working with large animals need to wear coveralls and slip-on boot covers. Students are allowed to wear eye protection, masks, gowns, or lab coats at any time as they feel fit but these are not required.

- Documentation of any student waiver of vaccination for religious or other health reasons with alternate risk mitigation plan.

Per Parkland College Health Professions policy

- *Declinations and exemptions can be submitted but clinical placement or progression in the program cannot be guaranteed.*
- *Declination forms should be submitted prior to the official acceptance in the program to avoid possible interruption in the student's education.*
- *Students must follow the Parkland process for requesting approval of a medical or religious exemption for a vaccination.*
 - a. *Students should contact the Dean of Health Professions to request a religious or medical exemption for a vaccination via the student's Parkland email account.*
 - b. *The Dean will send the student the related policy regarding health records and vaccinations along with the form to be completed by the student, healthcare provider and or religious leader. Only the Parkland form will be accepted.*
 - c. *The student will submit the completed form with required information directly to the Dean from the student email account.*
 - d. *The applications for approval will be determined on a case-by-case basis.*
 - e. *Additional supportive documents or information from the student, health care provider or religious leader may be requested.*
 - f. *The approval will be for the duration of the program only; if a student enters another Health Professions program, a new approval must be sought.*
 - g. *Students will be notified of decision through their Parkland student email account.*

If a student receives the first rabies vaccine in the series and has a reaction to the vaccine, it is at the discretion of their healthcare provider on if it is safe to give the second vaccine in the series. If the healthcare provider determines it is unsafe, written verification of this decision will need to be provided to the Parkland College Program Director. A titer will be done in this situation to determine if acceptable coverage was provided by one vaccine, per the CDC Rabies Serology guidelines.

If the titer does not show adequate protection, the Program Director will work with the student to provide suitable alternatives where the student will only work with appropriate species who have been Rabies vaccinated while in the program. They will be informed of their potential risks if they are exposed to Rabies after completion of the program.

- Documentation that student is aware of where to receive Rabies vaccine availability and cost assistance (if applicable).

Students can get the Rabies vaccine series through their own medical provider prior to starting the program. If students are not vaccinated by the start of the program, Parkland College will provide the opportunity to get vaccinated through the college. This option is built into the VTT course fees and allows students to use financial aid to cover the cost.


7. Comprehensive risk assessment taking into account local rabies prevalence.

- Documentation of risk assessment for program area and each location of primary learning, externships, and all animal resource locations used to include staff and student resources.
- CDC rabies location surveillance at <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/location/usa/surveillance/index.html>


The prevalence of the Rabies virus is very low in both Champaign, IL and the state of Illinois. It is extremely rare to see Rabies virus infections in Champaign, IL and the state of Illinois in any animal.

If a student chooses to attend a summer practicum site in an out of state area with a higher prevalence of Rabies, they will be educated on the increased prevalence. They will also be required to be vaccinated against Rabies.

Comprehensive Rabies Mitigation Plan Created by Dr. Laura Sutter, 9/6/2023

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