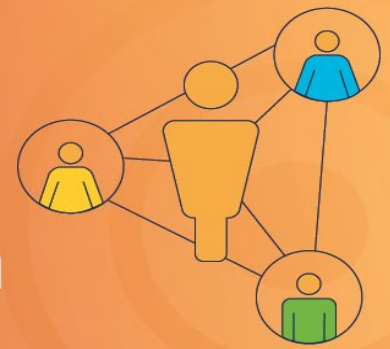


Public Health Alert

Communicable Diseases Branch

Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services (QPHaSS)



Email CDMU@health.qld.gov.au

CLINICIAN ALERT | Rabies

Key points:

1. Rabies has been recently detected on the island of Timor, including West Timor and Timor-Leste.
2. Rabies is fatal without post-exposure treatment.
3. Consider rabies PEP for animal bites or scratches, particularly dog bites, in these regions.

28 March 2024

Issue:

- The [Smartraveller](#) website has been updated for Timor-Leste.
- Precautions including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) and post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) should be considered for people who work in or travel to West Timor (Indonesia) or Timor-Leste.
- Overseas, dogs are the main transmitter of rabies. Other animals that transmit rabies overseas include bats, monkeys, foxes, cats, raccoons, skunks, jackals, mongooses and other mammals.

Prevention:

- Following an urgent risk assessment, determine the need for commencement or continuation of PEP for bites in returning travellers from a wild or domestic terrestrial mammal in a [rabies-enzootic country](#).
- PEP should be considered regardless of the time interval since potential exposure.
- Some people who travel to rabies-enzootic areas are recommended to receive rabies vaccine as [PreP](#).

Further information:

- [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)
- [CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units](#)
- [Queensland Health Communicable disease control guidance](#)
- [Local Public Health Unit](#)

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