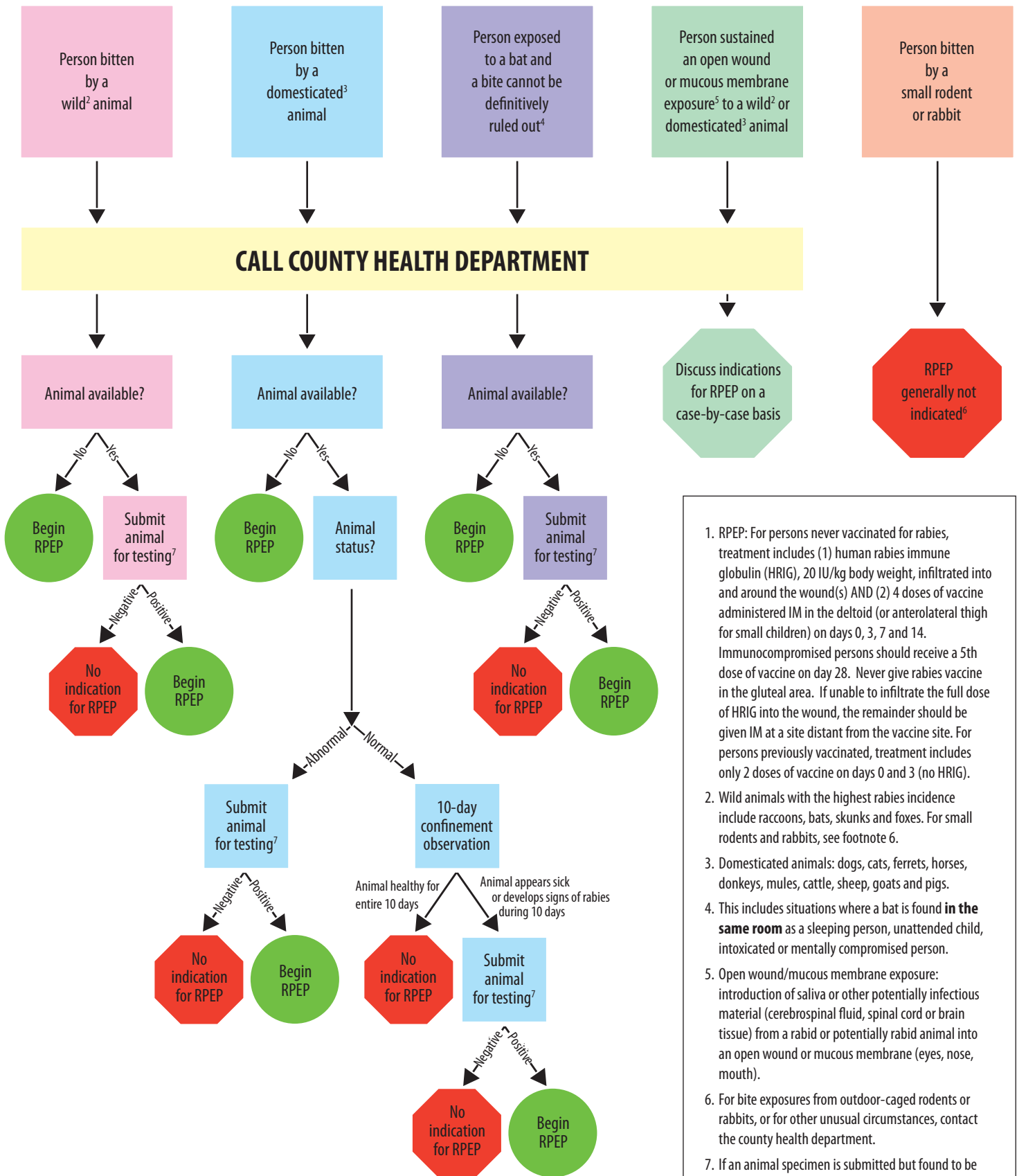


Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP)¹ Algorithm



1. RPEP: For persons never vaccinated for rabies, treatment includes (1) human rabies immune globulin (HRIG), 20 IU/kg body weight, infiltrated into and around the wound(s) AND (2) 4 doses of vaccine administered IM in the deltoid (or anterolateral thigh for small children) on days 0, 3, 7 and 14. Immunocompromised persons should receive a 5th dose of vaccine on day 28. Never give rabies vaccine in the gluteal area. If unable to infiltrate the full dose of HRIG into the wound, the remainder should be given IM at a site distant from the vaccine site. For persons previously vaccinated, treatment includes only 2 doses of vaccine on days 0 and 3 (no HRIG).
2. Wild animals with the highest rabies incidence include raccoons, bats, skunks and foxes. For small rodents and rabbits, see footnote 6.
3. Domesticated animals: dogs, cats, ferrets, horses, donkeys, mules, cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.
4. This includes situations where a bat is found **in the same room** as a sleeping person, unattended child, intoxicated or mentally compromised person.
5. Open wound/mucous membrane exposure: introduction of saliva or other potentially infectious material (cerebrospinal fluid, spinal cord or brain tissue) from a rabid or potentially rabid animal into an open wound or mucous membrane (eyes, nose, mouth).
6. For bite exposures from outdoor-caged rodents or rabbits, or for other unusual circumstances, contact the county health department.
7. If an animal specimen is submitted but found to be untestable, it should be assumed to be positive for rabies treatment decision making purposes.