How can you catch a bat safely?

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

• Always wear thick gloves.

• Avoid touching the bat, even with gloves on.

• If the bat is alive, wait until it lands, then place a container over the bat to trap it. To prevent the bat from escaping, slide a stiff piece of cardboard under the opening of the container and tape it tightly. Keep the trapped bat in a safe place.

• If the bat is dead, use a shovel or other object to place it in a thick bag lined with another bag, then place it in the freezer.

• Wash your hands after taking off your gloves.

• If you haven’t already done so, call Info-Santé 8-1-1. The respondent will tell you the measures to take to have the bat picked up for analysis.

For any medical information on rabies, consult Info-Santé 8-1-1.

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What is a bat?

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What is rabies virus?

Rabies virus is a 100% 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.

How is rabies virus transmitted?

Rabies virus is present in the saliva of infected bats. It is transmitted through
• Wounds inflicted by bats (bites or scratches)
• Contact of bat saliva with a wound or mucous membrane (eyes, nose, mouth)

NEVER TOUCH A BAT!

Anyone who has touched or been touched by a bat should wash the affected part of the body with soap and water for 10 to 15 minutes, then call Info-Santé 8-1-1.

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
• Contact Info-Santé 8-1-1, as a rabies vaccination may be needed
• Follow the instructions of the Info-Santé 8-1-1 respondent, who will judge whether it is necessary to catch the bat for analysis. If the animal does not have rabies, a vaccination is not necessary.