21 April 2016

Reminder not to handle sick or injured bats

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s public health unit is reminding residents not to handle sick or injured bats after a sick bat was found in Tewantin last weekend.

Public health physician Dr Andrew Langley confirmed a sick flying fox (fruit bat) was found at Lions Park at Tewantin on Saturday, 16 April 2016.

“The bat has since been tested and found to carry the Australian Bat Lyssavirus,” Dr Langley said.

Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV) is a virus that can be transmitted from bats to humans.

Dr Langley said ABLV infection in humans caused serious illness but could be prevented with appropriate treatment.

“It has been reported that a man picked up the bat from the ground some time before 3pm and placed it in a tree near the stage, about 1800mm from the ground,” he said.

“It was collected from the tree by a trained wildlife carer at about 6.30pm on Saturday.

“If you or your child has handled the bat and been bitten, scratched or had their eyes, nose or mouth exposed to bat saliva when it was please contact the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit on 5409 6600 during normal working hours; or 13 Health (13 43 25 84) after hours immediately for advice on treatment to protect your child,” Dr Langley said.

More information can be found in these fact sheets:

- [Australian Bat Lyssavirus fact sheet](#)
- [Information For People Who Have Found A Sick Or Injured Bat](#)

ENDS

Media contact: Naomi Ford | 5470 5495

Follow us! 📚weeted