25 October 2017

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.

Public health physician Dr Andrew Langley said sick bats may carry Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV).

“Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV) is a virus that can be transmitted from bats to humans. ABLV infection in humans causes serious illness, but can be prevented with appropriate treatment,” Dr Langley said.

“It is important to be aware of the health risk and avoid contact with all bats. If you encounter a sick or injured bat please contact a wildlife rescue organisation which has trained bat handlers.

“If you or your child has handled a bat and been bitten, scratched or had their eyes, nose or mouth exposed to bat saliva please immediately contact the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit on 5409 6600 during normal working hours; or 13 Health (13 43 25 84) after hours for advice on protective treatment,” he 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 | 5202 0078

Follow us! [Facebook] [Twitter]