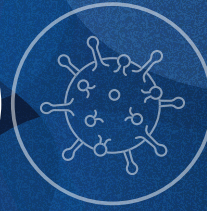


Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV)



Protecting yourself against ABLV

What is ABLV?

Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV) is similar to the rabies virus.

All Australian bats have the potential to carry lyssavirus. There is no known effective treatment for ABLV disease once symptoms have started.

Only trained and vaccinated people should ever touch bats.

If you find a sick or injured bat, contact the RSPCA on **1300ANIMAL (1300 264 625)** or a bat care organisation in your local area.

How do you get ABLV?

ABLV is spread from bats to humans when the saliva or brain tissue of an infected bat enters the human body through a break in the skin or mucous membranes.

This is usually by:

- a bite or scratch, or
- by getting bat saliva or brain tissue in the eyes, nose, or mouth or onto a pre-existing break in the skin.

What if you have been bitten or scratched by a bat, or gotten bat saliva in the eyes, nose or mouth?



If your eyes, nose or mouth have been exposed, flush the area thoroughly with water.



Wash any wounds gently, but thoroughly, for at least 15 minutes with soap and running water as soon as practicable to reduce the risk of infection.



Do not scrub any wounds.



Apply an antiseptic to the wound(s) after washing. The best type is one that contains povidine-iodine or alcohol (ethanol).



If you have been bitten or scratched by a bat, or gotten bat saliva in your eyes, nose or mouth, you should seek urgent medical assessment and post exposure management to prevent potential ABLV disease as soon as possible.

If you are not sure, seek advice.

Where can I go for more information?



Scan the QR code to find out more about ABLV.

For more information, contact your local public health unit or call **13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)**.