Flowchart – Australian Bat Lyssavirus (Potential Exposure)

Australian bat lyssavirus is closely related but not identical to classical rabies virus. All bites, scratches and mucous membrane exposures from all bats, regardless of the bat's clinical status, should be managed as potential exposures.

Bat or Flying Fox bite, scratch or mucosal exposure to saliva?

- Immediately wash wound/s thoroughly with soap and water for at least 15 minutes.
- A virucidal antiseptic solution such as povidone-iodine or alcohol should be applied.
- Check vaccination status for tetanus.

Urgently seek advice from Public Health Unit

Client details

- Client contact details?
- Previously vaccinated with rabies vaccine?
- Immunocompromised?
- Weight?
- Allergies?

Bat or Flying Fox

- to be retained for testing if available
- to be handled by trained and rabies-vaccinated bat handlers only.

Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

- Administer rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine as advised by Public Health Unit (PHU).
- Further information is available online via the Australian Immunisation Handbook or from the PHU.
- Immunisation providers should submit vaccination details to the Australian Immunisation Register.