

St. Petersburg College - College of Veterinary Technology

RaBies PROTECTION

During the time you are a student in the Veterinary Technology Program at St Petersburg College, it is possible you will be exposed to the rabies virus through the animals you will contact. Considering this possibility, we **require** all students to be inoculated against rabies. If you have previously been inoculated you will need to submit titers.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. As a veterinary technology student at St Petersburg College, should I be vaccinated for rabies?

Answer: It is required that all veterinary technology students be vaccinated for rabies. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) considers individuals that work with animals from a rabies endemic region to be in the "frequent" exposure risk category. The CDC recommends the primary course of rabies vaccination with serologic monitoring and /or booster vaccination every two years.

What is Rabies?, World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/rabies/about/en/>

Rabies, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>

2. If I am exposed to rabies, what is the treatment?

Answer: For **vaccinated individuals**, the wound is immediately and thoroughly cleansed with soap and water, then 2 doses of rabies vaccine are given, one immediately, and the other is given three days later. For **non-vaccinated individuals**, the wound is immediately and thoroughly cleaned with soap and water. The area around the wound is injected with Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG), and then 5 doses of rabies vaccine are given after the exposure on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28.

3. Which regimen is more effective in preventing rabies -- pre-exposure vaccination or the full series of post-exposure injections?

Answer: Both approaches are effective in preventing rabies infection. Both require injections after exposure. The main benefit of preexposure vaccination is that some immunity has been already mounted if you are unknowingly exposed to a rabid animal. The following information on rabies pre- and post-exposure vaccination is taken from the Center for Disease Control and further explains the risks and benefits of rabies vaccination prophylaxis.

4. Where can I obtain the vaccine?

Answer: Letter for insurance / proof of requirement for program : [Letter](#)

Hillsborough County Health Department 813-307-8077 to make an appointment or contact Peaches Thompson-Williams for assistance with scheduling 813-777-7858 You will need to provide letter from college stating that you are required to be vaccinated. Vaccine here is \$393.80 (plus \$15 admin fee) per dose and 2 doses 1 week apart are required.

Pinellas County Health Department 727-824-6900 Ask for the Rabies nurse and take provided letter

Local Walgreens sites that have a clinic can also provide vaccine

Passport Health: <https://passporthealthtampa-px.healthservices.help/>

Some Walgreens, CVS or other pharmacy locations may order vaccine for you depending on your insurance. Please provide letter above to insurance or pharmacy.

Information on Rabies Pre-Exposure Vaccination

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/prevention&control/preventi.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/availability.html>

Rabies Vaccine and Immune Globulin

There is no treatment for rabies after symptoms of the disease appear. However, post-exposure prophylaxis is very effective for prevention of clinical infection. Although rabies among humans is rare in the United States, every year an estimated 18,000 people receive rabies preexposure prophylaxis and an additional 40,000 receive post-exposure prophylaxis.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

Pre-exposure vaccination is recommended for persons in high-risk groups and for other persons whose activities bring them into frequent contact with rabies virus or potentially rabid bats, raccoons, skunks, cats, dogs, or other species at risk of having rabies. For more information about pre-exposure prophylaxis, see Human Rabies Prevention - United States, 1999 Recommendations of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP).

Purpose of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

Pre-exposure prophylaxis is given for several reasons. First, although pre-exposure vaccination does not eliminate the need for additional medical attention after a rabies exposure, it simplifies therapy by eliminating the need for human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and decreasing the number of vaccine doses needed. Second, it may enhance immunity in persons whose post-exposure therapy might be delayed. Finally, it may provide protection to persons with unrecognized exposures to rabies.

Record the dates of your inoculations below.

If you have already been vaccinated, protective titers must be checked, please record the date your titers were determined and the results of that test.

If you decline to be vaccinated against the rabies virus, please sign the Rabies Declination Form which is included with this letter. **Medical documentation must be submitted stating you are unable to receive the vaccine.** Students who are unable to be vaccinated may be required to complete clinical skills face to face with instructors at the student's expense if vaccinated animals are unavailable at your clinical site.

If you have any questions, please contact the Veterinary Technology Program at 727-302-6712.

Fill out only the section below that applies to you with your initials.... Sign and date the bottom of the form.

_____ (Student initial) **I was vaccinated against the rabies virus on the following dates:**

First inoculation _____ Second inoculation _____

Location you obtain Vaccine(Name and City/State) :

__ (Student initial) **I had my protective rabies titer (only required for those vaccinated over 2 years ago) tested on _____ Titer Value: _____**

Rabies Vaccination declination form : Pre-Approval By Program Director Required

____ (student initial) I understand that due to my potential exposure to unvaccinated animals I may be at risk of acquiring rabies virus (RV) infection. I acknowledge that it has been recommended that I be vaccinated with rabies vaccine. However, I decline rabies vaccination at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring rabies, a potentially fatal disease. BY declining the vaccine, I understand this may affect my ability to complete essential skills required of my courses. If in the future I continue to have occupational exposure to potentially unvaccinated animals and I want to be vaccinated with rabies vaccine, I can receive the vaccination series at my own expense.

Student's Printed Name _____ Student Signature _____ Date _____