If there is a bat in your home, here's what to expect if you call for help.

**Type of contact...**

- **Possible contact** exists if a bat was close to an unattended child, a sleeping person, an impaired person or a pet.

- **If a person or pet had direct contact** (bite, scratch, or other physical contact), the bat should be tested for rabies.

  - **Call 617-796-2100.**
  - Police non-emergency line to find out if an Animal Control Officer (ACO) is available.

- **No possibility of contact?** Let the bat go.

**Available ACO**

- ACO will capture the bat and arrange for euthanizing (if needed) and transport to the state lab for testing.

**Unavailable ACO**

- The resident can capture the bat him/herself, call a pest control company at his/her own expense to capture it & deliver to the lab, or wait for the ACO to return. If the resident captures the bat, it should be refrigerated in a clear plastic container until the ACO is available to pick it up.

**Results**

- **Positive** or unsatisfactory rabies results typically mean preventive rabies shots are recommended for exposed people.
  - You will hear from a state epidemiologist about what to do next.

- **Negative** rabies results (which occur the vast majority of the time) mean no preventive rabies shots are needed.

**QUESTIONS? CALL the ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS AT (617) 796-2109.**

Health related questions may be directed to the Health Department at (617) 796-1420, or to the state epidemiologist (24/7) at 617-983-6800.