



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

OCGOV.NET/HEALTH

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano
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Fox That Attacked Residents in Rome Captured & Confirmed Rabid *Health Department Reminds Public to Remain Cautious*

A fox that attacked multiple residents in the City of Rome last week has been captured and tested positive for rabies.

The fox was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing on Jan. 16 and positive results were reported on Jan. 17. Four people were exposed to the fox and have received post exposure prophylaxis.

On Jan. 12, the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) alerted the Rome community about a potentially rabid fox attacking residents. At that time, three residents had been attacked. Later that evening, a fox attacked a fourth person and the animal was euthanized.

"We want to remind the public that although this particular fox is no longer a threat, it is important to remain cautious about rabies," said Director of Health Daniel W. Gilmore, Ph.D., MPH. "Avoid animals that are acting strange and keep your pets up to date with rabies vaccinations."

Per NYS Public Health Law, all dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated by 4 months-old and then one year following the initial dose. Dogs and cats need to receive a booster dose every three years following. Ferrets must receive booster doses annually.

For the safety of pets and the convenience of county residents, the OCHD offers rabies vaccination clinics throughout the year in various community locations. Oneida County's 2024 vaccination clinic schedule will be announced in the near future.

For more information on rabies prevention, visit ocgov.net/rabies. If you have questions or are concerned about a possible rabies exposure, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

ADMINISTRATION

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-6400 • FAX: (315) 266-6138

SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

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