



Health, Housing, and Community Services Department

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HEALTH UPDATE

Animal Bite and Rabies Exposure Reporting Process Changes for City of Berkeley Residents August 12, 2026

ALERT – conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

ADVISORY – provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

UPDATE – provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Summary

The City of Berkeley Public Health Division, in partnership with the Alameda County Communicable Disease Unit, [transitioned to an electronic reporting system for animal bite and rabies exposure incidents](#). This process replaces paper and fax-based reporting and is designed to streamline provider reporting and ensure timely public health response.

Background

[California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 2606](#) requires healthcare providers to report **all bites from mammals**, regardless of whether the animal is suspected of having rabies.

To improve reporting efficiency and accuracy, providers serving Berkeley and Alameda County residents may now submit the required information through a new [electronic survey version of the Animal Bite Incident and Rabies Exposure Report Form](#).

What Providers Need to Know

- The new electronic form supports quicker, more complete reporting of exposures related to bats and other mammals.
- When providers submit the electronic form:
 - Reports are automatically routed to the correct jurisdiction (City of Berkeley or Alameda County) based on the **patient's residence**.
 - Reports are also forwarded to the appropriate **Animal Control agency** in the jurisdiction

where the bite occurred, if within Alameda County.

- For patients who are **not residents of Berkeley or Alameda County**, providers should refer to the appropriate local health department for reporting instructions. Reporting requirements may differ by county.
- The new electronic form is **only applicable for Alameda County residents**.
- Providers may consult their facility's health department for guidance on reporting to other jurisdictions.

Why This Matters

- Supports compliance with state reporting requirements under CCR Title 17.
- Ensures timely public health follow-up for rabies risk assessment.
- Improves efficiency by eliminating the need for paper or fax submissions.

Where to Access the Form

- City of Berkeley Public Health – [Provider Resources: Communicable Disease Reporting](#)
- Alameda County Public Health Department – [Provider Reporting: Communicable Disease Control Reporting Forms](#)

For Questions

Providers may contact the City of Berkeley Communicable Disease Program for additional information or assistance with reporting processes.

City of Berkeley Communicable Disease Program

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