



# MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

PREVENT · PROMOTE · PROTECT

**Address**  
50 Westchester Drive  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515

**Phone**  
330-270-2855

**Toll Free**  
(800) 873-6243

**Laboratory Services**  
330-270-2841

**Website**  
[www.mahoninghealth.org](http://www.mahoninghealth.org)

**Facebook & Twitter**  
@mahoninghealth



**Austintown**  
330-792-2397

**Boardman**  
330-788-1485

**Youngstown**  
234-855-1575



**Phone**  
330-270-2855 ext. 136



<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b> <b>DATE: June 9, 2022</b>	Contact: MCPH PIO Team
	PIO Team Phone: 330-270-2855 ext 109
	PIO Team Email: <a href="mailto:pioteam@mahoninghealth.org">pioteam@mahoninghealth.org</a>

On June 8<sup>th</sup> 2022, an Ohio Department of Health Laboratory report has confirmed a raccoon testing positive for the rabies virus. The raccoon was collected by Mahoning County Public Health in the location of Northwest Boardman.

Mahoning County Public Health is reminding all residents to protect themselves and their pets from coming in contact with wildlife.

**Following these practices can help prevent the spread of the Rabies Virus in our community:**

- **Ensure that your pets (dogs, cats, ferrets) are current on their rabies vaccinations.**
- **If your pet has had an encounter with a wild animal in the past few days, seek veterinary attention immediately.**
- **Report any bite incidents to your local health department.**
- **If you see a sick, lethargic, or confused animal DO NOT APPROACH IT. Instead contact animal control or your local law enforcement.**

“Pet owners need to remember that in Mahoning County all dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccinations can be obtained from a local veterinarian. In addition, residents should refrain from feeding or playing with wildlife,” says Colton Masters, Director of Environmental Health for Mahoning County Public Health. “Household pets should be fed indoors and trash can lids secured to avoid attracting wildlife onto your property.”

The signs and symptoms of rabies in animals can vary based on the animal, the viral strain and the stage of the virus. Symptoms such as twitching, uncontrollable muscle movements, disorientation, aggression, difficulty walking or moving, and paralysis are common with infected animals.

Rabies virus is spread through direct contact (such as through broken skin or mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, or mouth) with saliva or brain/nervous system tissue from an infected animal. For this reason, it is extremely important that any human who encounters a possibly infected animal seeks medical attention immediately. Prompt treatment is the key to preventing the virus in humans.

If you find a sick or dead raccoon, skunk, or fox that is not decayed, please contact your local health department:



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If found in the city of Youngstown, please contact the Youngstown City Health District at (330) 743-3333.

If found in all other Mahoning County communities, please contact Mahoning County Public Health at (330) 270-2855 menu selection #2.

**ABOUT MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**

Mahoning County Public Health works to protect the public's health and to ensure conditions in which all people can live healthy lives. Mahoning County Public Health offers a variety of services from immunizations to environmental and community health programs. For a complete list of services, visit [mahoninghealth.org](http://mahoninghealth.org).

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