



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

Facebook & Twitter
[@mahoninghealth](#)



Austintown
330-792-2397

Boardman
330-788-1485

Youngstown
234-855-1575



Phone
330-270-2855 ext. 136



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: August 5, 2020	Contact: MCPH PIO Team
	PIO Team Phone: 330-270-2855 ext 109
	PIO Team Email: pioteam@mahoninghealth.org

2020 Fall Oral Rabies Vaccine Baiting Operation

Mahoning County Public Health will be participating with the Ohio Department of Health and the USDA's Wildlife Services Program to distribute rabies vaccine-laden baits in 13 participating counties. The goal of the annual operation is to immunize wild raccoons against rabies and prevent the spread of raccoon rabies in Ohio. The Sebring and Youngstown areas will be baited via a red and black helicopter Aug 6-10 and baiting in the rest of Mahoning County will take place August 11-20 via a fixed wing aircraft, weather permitting.

There is no risk to someone handling an intact bait. If you need to handle a bait,

- Wear gloves or use a paper towel when picking up the bait. Although there is no harm in touching the undamaged bait, using gloves or a paper towel will protect against an unknown exposure to the liquid inside the bait and will protect your hands if you have any small cuts.
- Wash your hands and any exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water if there is any chance that the vaccine sachet has been ruptured and its contents (liquid inside the bait) have gotten on any exposed skin.
- If you have skin, mucous membrane, or eye contact with the liquid inside the bait, or have exposed breaks in skin, are pregnant, or are immunocompromised, seek medical attention if you experienced any rash, fever, sore throat, headache, conjunctivitis, vomiting, or diarrhea within 21 days of the exposure.

Dogs who have ingested multiple baits may experience vomiting or diarrhea due to the plastic sachet and the coating of the vaccine. Baits may be removed from an area where a pet could find them and eat them.

All adverse reactions should be reported to the Ohio Department of Health at 1-888-574-6656 or 614-752-1387.

For further information on raccoon rabies and the vaccine bait, see the websites below:

- Ohio Department of Health - www.odh.ohio.gov, search for "Oral Rabies Vaccination Campaign"
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, National Rabies Management Program - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage/rabies>



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The vaccine is enclosed in a 1" x 2" blister pack filled with the vaccine and covered with a sweet-smelling, dark green, waxy coating.

Media Actions:

- Members of the news media with requests for information from Mahoning County Public Health must submit requests to our PIO Team by one of the following methods.
 - **Email(24/7/365):** PIOTeam@mahoninghealth.org with your name, contact information, the media outlet you are representing, and the information you are requesting.
 - **Phone During Business Hours (8 AM to 4:30 PM):** (330) 270-2855 please dial extension 109 – if there is no answer, please leave a message or press 0 to speak with the operator who answers the line.
 - **Phone After Hours:** (330) 270-2855, please dial extension 414 and leave a detailed message on our after-hours reporting line including your name, contact information, the media outlet you are representing, and the information you are requesting. The message will be routed to a member of our leadership team.
 - **Calls placed to personal cell phones will not be returned**

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.

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