



UK Health
Security
Agency

Rabies and Immunoglobulin Service
UKHSA
61 Colindale Avenue
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[UKHSA website](#)

4 November 2022

Dear Head of A&E and Chief Pharmacists

Re: Rabies vaccine provision for post-exposure treatment

I am writing to remind you of the need for all trusts to hold a small number of doses of rabies vaccine (up to 4 per site) or have prompt access to rabies vaccine through your pharmaceutical emergency process, so that rabies post-exposure treatment can be started as soon as possible after accessing the NHS. This was prompted in the original letter (September 2020) by treatment delays because vaccine was not available. Although UKHSA will arrange delivery of rabies vaccine during normal working hours (Monday to Friday), the first dose of vaccine should ideally be given within 24 hours. Vaccine had been available for pick-up from the UKHSA Colindale site, but as Colindale no longer has a wholesale dealer's licence this will not be possible now.

We would also expect the vaccine to be available to issue to local GPs and walk-in centres to commence treatment whilst procuring further stock from UKHSA. Sites will need to consider the most suitable route for making such supplies should the need arise based on local circumstances.

Any NHS rabies vaccine that is used as per UKHSA guidance or advice for [rabies post-exposure treatment](#) will be replaced with stock from UKHSA free of charge, by contacting the Rabies and Immunoglobulin Service (0330 128 1020) with full details on the next working day.

On working days, UKHSA will continue to issue human rabies immunoglobulin and the remaining doses required to the appropriate health care provider using a next day delivery service via ImmForm.

The Rabies and Immunoglobulin Service and the out of hours duty doctor service will continue to provide risk assessment advice between 9am and 5:30 pm each day. [Further information](#) about the service can be found online.

Please note that vaccine and human rabies immunoglobulin cannot be issued outside these hours.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Russell".

Dr Katherine Russell
Consultant Epidemiologist
Emerging Infections and Zoonoses team
UK Health Security Agency