**PRESS RELEASE**

January 6, 2025

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Lewis County Public Health has been notified by the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Laboratory that a cat in the Town of New Bremen has tested positive for rabies. One individual who had direct contact with the animal is undergoing rabies post-exposure treatment.

Lewis County Public Health reminds all Lewis County residents and those that visit our county that rabies is a very serious and deadly disease affecting the central nervous system. It can be transmitted from infected animals to humans if they are exposed to the saliva or nervous tissue of a rabid animal through a bite or scratch. It is also possible for a person to have contact with a bat and not know it while asleep, therefore all bats that are found in the room of a sleeping person or small child should be captured and tested for rabies. To view a video on how to safely capture a bat, please visit: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/docs/catch_the_bat_high.wmv>

It is very important for people and their pets to avoid direct contact with wild animals, particularly if the animals are behaving abnormally, and ensure your pets are up to date with rabies vaccinations. The next rabies vaccination clinic is scheduled for Saturday, January 11th from 10 am to 12 pm at Maple Ridge Center on East Road in Lowville.

For more information about rabies, call Lewis County Public Health at 315-376-5453.

Scan the QR code to stay informed about rabies clinics and other events on the Lewis County Public Health App.

