

Simpler reporting requirements for suspected lyssavirus infection, including Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV).

Following amendments to the Biosecurity Act 2015 (the Act) and the Biosecurity Regulation, the listing of lyssaviruses (including Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV)) in NSW has changed. This will reduce reporting requirements for veterinarians.

Notification of exotic lyssavirus in any animal or clinical ABLV in animals (except bats)

Immediate verbal notification of suspected infection to an authorised officer is only required where a veterinarian suspects, or is aware, that:

- an animal (other than a bat) has clinical ABLV,
- an animal has an exotic lyssavirus genotype (including rabies).

In these circumstances call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Infection or suspected infection of bats with ABLV

Veterinarians must notify an authorised officer within one working day if they suspect, or are aware, that a bat is infected with Australian Bat Lyssavirus.

In these circumstances, you can notify by emailing animal.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au with details of the case and your contact information. Where the bat is being submitted for ABLV testing, please attach a copy of your submission form.

Bats that have interacted with other animals

There is no legal requirement to notify an authorised officer of an interaction of a bat with another animal, such as a cat or a dog in cases when ABLV infection in the bat is not suspected, even if you are submitting the bat for testing.

However, if you do suspect a bat may be infected and has interacted with another animal, then veterinarians must notify an authorised officer within one working day (as above).

Please continue to contact the State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory if you are submitting a bat for testing by phone on 1800 675 623 or emailing laboratory.services@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Human exposure to bats

Any human exposure to bats should be reported by the person involved to NSW Health on 1300 066 055.

Managing ABLV exposures

Details on the management of ABLV exposure cases can be found in the [Australian Bat Lyssavirus: Guidelines for Veterinarians](#).

Details of changes to legislative requirements

The changes to the [NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 \(the Act\)](#) and the [NSW Biosecurity Regulation](#) are:

- "Australian Bat Lyssavirus (clinical disease in any animals other than bats)" is listed as Prohibited Matter under schedule 2 of the Act
- "Lyssavirus (exotic genotypes)" are also listed as Prohibited Matter under schedule 2 of the Act
- "Australian Bat Lyssavirus in bats" is listed as notifiable under Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation.
- "Rabies" remains unchanged, listed at Prohibited Matter under schedule 2 of the Act.

Your Reference number (PUB19/555)

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Industry, 2019. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Primary Industries as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2019). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.