



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
Public Health Unit

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH- Linda Beers, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR/DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
PROMOTION & PLANNING- Jessica Darney Buehler, MPH

June 2, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:

Andrea Whitmarsh, MPH – Program Coordinator, Essex County Health Department
518-873-3546 | andrea.whitmarsh@essexcountyny.gov

Rabid Fox in Westport, NY

Elizabethtown, NY. On the morning of Saturday, May 30, 2026, Essex County Health Department (ECHD) on-call staff were alerted that emergency responders were managing an active fox attack in Westport, NY. As details emerged, it became clear there had been two separate attacks occurring close in time and location.

ECHD staff worked closely with the Deputy Sheriff to ensure the fox was safely dispatched, transported, and stored over the weekend. Because the animal had a high likelihood of carrying rabies, several individuals identified through interviews as potentially exposed were promptly guided to receive appropriate post-exposure rabies treatment. Dogs involved in the incidents also received recommended rabies booster vaccinations.

On Monday, Health Department staff coordinated with Adirondack Veterinary Hospital to prepare the fox specimen for submission to Wadsworth Laboratory. Today, Tuesday, June 2, 2026, the lab confirmed that the fox tested positive for rabies.

Town Supervisor, Ike Tyler, shared his appreciation: “I appreciate the coordinated care undertaken by the Health Department with the Sheriff’s Department, Westport Fire and EMS, and Elizabethtown Community Hospital to ensure the best possible outcomes for all.”

Jessica Darney Buehler, ECHD Deputy Director, added, “We’re grateful for the quick and thoughtful response from everyone involved. These were very concerning situations, but the immediate risk now appears to be resolved. We remind residents never to approach or attract wildlife. Please call our Department with any questions about this incident or any potential rabies exposure—our trained staff are ready to help.”

Public Health Director Linda Beers emphasized prevention: “Please be sure to get your pets vaccinated at one of our upcoming rabies clinics.” More information on rabies prevention and the full 2026 rabies clinic schedule is available on the ECHD website: <https://health.essexcountyny.gov/communicable-disease-control/rabies-center/>

To view the 2026 Rabies Clinic Schedule and register your pets, visit:
<https://health.essexcountyny.gov/rabies-clinics/>

The next free clinic will be held Tuesday, June 23, from 6–7:30 PM at the Chesterfield Knights of Columbus.



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