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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For More Information:**

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*Raccoon tests positive for rabies in Essex County*

**Elizabethtown, NY.** A raccoon at a residence in Essex has tested positive for rabies. The animal had been observed acting strangely and climbed on a resident's porch September 16, 2025 and died.

With instructions of safe handling from the Health Department, the animal was taken to the Adirondack Veterinary Hospital for specimen preparation and submission to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory for rabies testing that same day. The Essex County Health Department, through interviews assessed that there were no human, pet or livestock exposures to this animal and agreed to submit it for surveillance purposes.

The lab called the Essex County Health Department this morning, Thursday, September 18, confirming the raccoon tested positive for the virus.

"This is the sixth lab confirmed case of rabies in Essex County in 2025; five in terrestrial animals, and one bat," states Director of Health Planning and Promotion for ECHD, Jessica Darney Buehler. "All involved in this scenario acted safely by staying away from the animal while it was alive and working with our Department to safely handle it for testing once it passed."

Public Health Director, Linda Beers reminded residents: "There are two more rabies clinics for dogs, cats and ferrets being offered by the Department this year. Please take advantage of these free clinics for your pets."

More information about rabies prevention is viewable on the ECHD website at:

<https://essexcountyny.gov/Health/communicable-disease-control/rabies-center/>

To view the 2025 Rabies Clinic Schedule and register your pets, go to <https://essexcountyny.gov/Health/>. The next opportunity to vaccinate your pets for free is Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at the Schroon Lake Fire house or Thursday, November 6, 2025 at the Elizabethtown DOT.

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