**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BAT in the BEDROOM**

Get it Tested

Kearney, NE--- The Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) reminds you that a bat found in a room where someone has been sleeping or in another part of the house with open bedroom doors should be caught and tested for Rabies. Rabies is a fatal disease. The Center for Disease Control has instructions on how to safely catch a bat for testing at this link: <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/contact/capture.html>

Laura Steele, Assistant Director explains, “If you know you have had contact with a bat and, especially, whenever a person wakes up and finds a bat in the room, that bat should be carefully caught and tested for rabies. Bat bites can be easy to overlook, so if you find a bat in a room with young children, elderly individuals, any sleeping person, or anyone who is unable to communicate clearly, that bat should be tested.”

If you are exposed to a bat, but are unable to capture the animal for testing it is very important to visit your healthcare provider to take preventative measures. Rabies is nearly is always fatal, and when symptoms start to manifest there is no treatment option.

Please contact Two Rivers Public Health Department at (888) 669-7154 to report contact with bats or visit our website [www.trphd.org](http://www.trphd.org). You can also follow us on Facebook (@2RPHD) or Twitter (@trpublichealth).

*The Mission of Two Rivers Public Health Department is to assess and monitor the health status of the district and facilitate the linking of resources to assure health promotion, prevention, and protection for the people within Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps Counties.*

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