

# Stark County Health Department

*Kirkland Norris, RS, MPH, Health Commissioner  
David Benner, President of the Board of Health  
Maureen Ahmann, DO, Medical Director*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**To: Stark County Schools**

**From: Kirk Norris, Stark County Health Commissioner  
Randall Flint, Alliance City Health Commissioner  
James Adams, Canton City Health Commissioner  
Terri Argent, Massillon City Health Commissioner**

**Date: May 12, 2017**

**Re: Rabies Awareness in Stark County**

A second raccoon in Paris Township, Ohio (Stark County) has been tested and confirmed positive with raccoon rabies variant (RRV) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Stark County Health Department is working with the USDA, APHIS, and Wildlife Services (WS) to perform enhanced surveillance sample collection near the areas where the rabid raccoon was found.

We are urging residents to protect your families and pets against rabies:

- **AVOID** contact with wildlife and animals you do not know
- **TEACH** children to stay away from wildlife and unfamiliar animals
- **VACCINATE** your dogs & cats for rabies and keep them current
- **CALL** your doctor if bitten. Call your veterinarian if your pet fought with a wild animal

Stop uninvited wildlife guests by doing the following:

- **BRING** pet food in at night
- **TIGHTLY COVER** your trash
- **BOARD UP** openings in your home

USDA will begin Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) baiting to immunize wild raccoons against rabies.

Please follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on the situation and feel free to call the **Stark County Health Department at 330-493-9904 ext. 202** with any additional questions.

<http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health>

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