



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Joe Manchin III  
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker  
Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 2007

**TO:** State Parks in the Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) Distribution Area

**FROM:** Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program/Zoonoses Staff

**RE:** **ORAL RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM**

With a goal to stop the spread of the raccoon rabies variant in West Virginia, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, supported by other state and federal agencies, has implemented a program to immunize wild raccoons for rabies.

During August and September 2007, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and cooperators will be distributing rabies vaccine-containing baits to establish an immune barrier to halt the spread of raccoon strain rabies in West Virginia. Aerial bait drops are scheduled between August 23 and August 30 or 31; followed by hand baiting in some communities. We anticipate completion by the end of September. The target area covers a wide corridor through the central part of the state, extending from the northern panhandle to the southern coalfields. We will be using low-flying fixed wing aircraft to distribute the baits. Also included are several copies of two brochures which explain the Oral Rabies Vaccination program. Feel free to distribute these as you want, and copy them if needed.

Other information will be available at:

[http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/a-z/rabies\\_orv.asp](http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/a-z/rabies_orv.asp)

Do not hesitate to contact your local health department or the West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Program at 1-800-423-1271 if you have any questions regarding the scheduled bait drop. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important public health effort.

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**Bureau for Public Health**  
**Division of Surveillance and Disease Control**  
Room 125, 350 Capitol Street  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3715  
(304) 558-5358 or 1-800-423-1271

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