



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Bob Wise
Governor

Paul L. Nusbaum
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 2003

TO: Superintendent, _____ County Schools

FROM: The West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Project and
_____ County Health Department

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 2003, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and cooperators will be distributing rabies vaccine-laced baits to establish an immune barrier to halt the spread of raccoon strain rabies in West Virginia. 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 (please refer to enclosed map). We will be using low-flying fixed wing aircraft to distribute the baits.

In order to educate children and their parents about the rabies bait distribution, we would greatly appreciate it if you would copy and send the enclosed information home with your students.

Please do not hesitate to contact your local health department or the West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Project 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.