

## Diseases and conditions reported during March 17- 30, 2024:

This report is a bi-monthly snapshot of communicable diseases reported in El Paso County, as well as a report of disease trends and local health alerts. El Paso County Public Health's (EPCPH) Communicable Disease Program partners with the medical community and the public to limit and reduce the spread of diseases in our community.

### Reportable diseases and conditions:

- 10 Animal Bites –5 pediatric, 5 adults; 2 recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 6 Campylobacteriosis – 4 pediatric, 2 adults
- 3 Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) - adults
- 12 COVID-19, hospitalized – adults
- 7 Giardiasis - adults
- 4 Mpox - adults
- 1 Pertussis – adult
- 29 RSV, hospitalized – 14 pediatric, 15 adults
- 7 Salmonellosis – 4 pediatric, 3 adults
- 13 Strep Pneumo Invasive – 3 pediatric, 10 adults
- 1 Varicella – pediatric

### Additional reports:

- Animals positive for rabies 2024 Year to Date: 0
  - Hospitalized Influenza since Oct. 1, 2023: 507 Total (389 Influenza A, 103 Influenza B, and 15 Unsubtyped)
  - Outbreaks reported:
    - 1 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) outbreaks associated with a long-term care facility (LTCF).
    - 1 unknown gastrointestinal (GI) illness outbreak associated with a restaurant.
    - 1 Rotavirus outbreak associated with an Assisted Living Facility.
    - 1 suspect Norovirus outbreak associated with a hospital.
    - 1 varicella outbreak associated with a childcare center.
- \*COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCFs are not included in this summary  
For a list of reportable diseases and conditions and instructions on how to report, follow this [link](#).

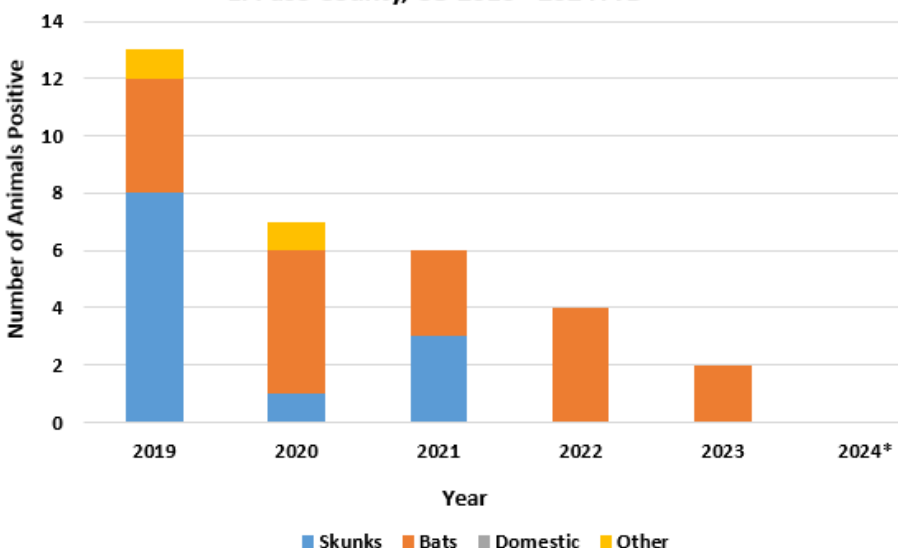
## Health News: Rabies Update

- To date in 2024, El Paso County has submitted 7 animals for rabies testing (6 raccoons, 1 fox). As of March 30, 2024, no animals have tested positive for the rabies virus in El Paso County.
- According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), as of March 30, 2024, no animals have tested positive for rabies in Colorado in 2024.
- In Colorado, bats and skunks are the primary rabies reservoir species, although any mammal can become infected with the virus. The incidence of rabies in skunks dramatically increased in Colorado in 2008 with the introduction of the south-central skunk variant. During 2023, other mammals testing positive for rabies in Colorado included bats.

EPCPH is available 24/7 to provide rabies exposure risk assessments and provide guidance for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. Contact EPCPH Communicable Disease Program at (719)-578-3220, for after hours or weekends (719) -235-2278. Additional algorithms that may be helpful can be found here: [Rabies Risk Assessment](#)

- El Paso County Public Health will conduct rabies testing on rabies reservoir species and other wild carnivores when they have had known or suspected contact with a human, domestic pet, or livestock.
- Consider post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) when:
- Direct contact between a human and a high-rabies-incidence species such as bats, skunks, raccoons (and to a lesser extent, bobcats, and coyotes) has occurred, unless the exposed person is an adult and can be certain a bite, scratch or mucous membrane exposure did not occur.
- PEP is an expensive and finite resource that is not always indicated.

**Animals Positive for Rabies by Type  
El Paso County, CO 2010 - 2024YTD\***



### Tips to avoid rabies exposure for your patients and the community:

- Keep pets and livestock up to date on rabies vaccinations. Rabies shots need to be boosted, so check pet's records or talk to your veterinarian.
- When walking or hiking with pets such as dogs, protect them and wildlife by keeping them on a leash.
- Keep cats and other pets inside at night to reduce the risk of exposure to other domestic animals and wildlife.
- Contact a veterinarian promptly if you believe a pet has been exposed to a wild animal.
- Do not touch or feed wild animals.
- If bitten or scratched by a wild or unknown animal, call your medical provider and EPCPH at (719) 578-3220.
- Contact the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region at (719) 473-1741 for lost or stray dogs and cats.

## Questions? Please Contact:

El Paso County Public Health CD/TB Program  
Hours: M-F, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(719) 578-3220; after-hours emergency: (719) 235-2278  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
(303) 692-2700; after-hours emergency: (303) 370-9395  
[www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org)  
Reportable Diseases and Conditions List