



# Communicable Disease (CD) Quarterly Report

San Francisco Department of Public Health  
 Quarter 3 | July 1 through September 30, 2018

Disease Reporting: 415-554-2830 (phone); 415-554-2848 (fax); <http://www.sfdcp.org>

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The **Communicable Disease Control Unit** receives and responds to reports of communicable diseases. For urgent reports during business hours, please call (415) 554-2830. For urgent or emergent reports after hours, please call (415) 554-2830 and follow instructions to contact the on-call physician. For non-urgent reports, please fax a Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to (415) 554-2848.

Please see our website for more information: <http://www.sfdcp.org>

Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR): <http://www.sfdcp.org/cmri>

Sign up to receive Health Alerts at: <https://www.sfdcp.org/health-alerts-emergencies/health-alerts/register-for-health-alerts/>

**Table 1: Number of Selected Reported Communicable Disease Cases**

	2018		2017	
	Q3	YTD <sup>§</sup>	Q3	YTD <sup>§</sup>
Botulism	0	0	1	2
Campylobacteriosis	122	349	96	325
Giardiasis	64	170	66	194
Hepatitis A	0	3	9	15
Hepatitis B, Acute	3	3	0	1
Influenza Death (0–64 yrs)	3	4	1	2
Invasive Meningococcal Disease	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0
Meningitis— Bacterial <sup>#</sup>	2	6	2	8
Meningitis— Viral	6	15	4	8
Mumps	8	13	1	10
Pertussis* (all ages)	15	26	10	26
Pertussis* (<4 mos of age)	0	0	0	0
Rabies, animal <sup>***</sup>	0	1	1	3
Salmonellosis	47	93	57	115
Shiga toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> <sup>+</sup>	17	45	27	49
Shigellosis	80	200	47	125
Vibriosis (Non-cholera)	6	6	6	12
Zika	1	6	1	9

**Table 2: Number of Selected Reported Outbreaks**

	2018		2017	
	Q3	YTD <sup>§</sup>	Q3	YTD <sup>§</sup>
Gastrointestinal	5	19	1	15
Respiratory	0	18	2	16
Confirmed Influenza	0	17	1	14

# Excludes Meningococcal Meningitis      \*\* Includes confirmed cases only  
 ^ Only detected in bats; no other animals      \* Includes confirmed, probable, & suspect cases  
 + Includes Shiga toxin in feces & *E. coli* O157  
 § YTD refers to data from the beginning of the year to the end of reporting quarter (Jan 1–Sep 30 of 2017 and 2018, respectively)

**Notes:** Data include San Francisco cases and outbreaks by date of report. Unless otherwise noted, confirmed and probable cases and confirmed, probable, and suspect outbreaks are included. For outbreak definitions, please see the most recent Annual Report of Communicable Diseases in San Francisco, available at: <https://www.sfdcp.org/about/publications-data-and-reports/>. Numbers may change due to updates to case status based on subsequent information received and/or delays in reporting.

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## San Francisco Animal Rabies Pearls—Part 1

### Q: Which animals can transmit rabies to humans?

A: All mammals are believed to be susceptible to rabies infection, but major rabies reservoirs are bats and terrestrial carnivores. Dogs are the main reservoir in developing countries but not in the USA due to canine vaccination and stray animal control programs. The main reservoirs in the USA are bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes. Horses and cattle can carry and transmit rabies. Small rodents including mice, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, squirrels, chipmunks, and gophers, as well as rabbits and hares, are almost never found to be infected with rabies and have not been known to transmit rabies to humans.

### Q: Which animals in San Francisco are known to carry rabies?

A: Since 1941, the only animals identified with rabies in SF have been bats. Several bats do test positive for rabies every year in SF.

### Q: Which other animals in San Francisco could potentially transmit rabies?

A: Other common wild mammals including raccoons, skunks, foxes, opossums, and coyotes could potentially become infected and transmit rabies to humans, although for decades SF has not identified rabies in any animals other than bats.

### Q: What about dogs and cats in San Francisco?

A: There has been no dog or cat identified with rabies in SF since 1941, and so the risk of getting rabies from a San Francisco dog or cat, even a stray dog or cat, while probably not zero, is exceedingly small.

### Q: What is the 10-day rule with dogs, cats, and ferrets?

A: No person in the USA has ever contracted rabies from a dog, cat, or ferret held under observation for 10 days, as these animals do not survive very long following rabies infection. If the dog, cat, or ferret can be determined to be healthy for 10 days after biting a human, the risk of rabies transmission from that animal has been definitively ruled out. This is very helpful since many bites are from owned or known animals that can be checked during the 10-day period. There is generally no need to initiate rabies post-exposure prophylaxis while the dog, cat, or ferret is under 10-day observation.

### Resources

SFDPH Rabies resources: <https://www.sfdcp.org/infectious-diseases-a-to-z/l-to-r/rabies/>

CDPH Rabies information: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Rabies.aspx>

CDC Rabies resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>