

## St. Lawrence County Public Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Keep St. Lawrence County Free from Rabies!**

Rabies is a preventable disease, but if pets are left unvaccinated, it can be fatal. Rabies spreads to humans or to pets by being scratched or bitten by a rabid animal. In 2019, a total of 3,101 pets were vaccinated thanks to the 26 free clinics held by numerous municipalities throughout the county!

You can help protect yourself and your pets from rabies by having your pets vaccinated, staying away from wildlife and seeking immediate medical care after a scratch or bite from a presumed rabid animal. St. Lawrence County will be holding 23 free clinics this year. Be sure to check your rabies certificate to see when your furry friend needs their next vaccination (typically 1 or 3 years after last vaccination).

Of the 23 clinics offered in 2020, the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department will host four of them, continuing its use of the online registration system. The online pre-registration process has replaced filling out forms during the clinic, which has helped cut down on wait times and provides pet owners with a printed easy-to-read rabies certificate. Pre-registration has also helped guarantee the appropriate amount of vaccine is available at each clinic. Registration for our clinics can be done online by following the link from Public Health's website or from the Public Health Facebook page @SLCPublicHealth.

The remaining clinics will be held throughout the county in a variety of townships. Pre-registration will **not** be required for these clinics. For a complete listing of the free rabies clinics, please see the 2020 Free Rabies Vaccination Clinics Schedule:

https://www.stlawco.org/data/files/departments/PublicHealth/Clinic%20Flyer%202020%20PH%20first(2).pdf.

Thank you for helping to keep St. Lawrence County free from rabies. For additional information regarding the rabies clinics please call the Public Health Department at 315-386-2325.

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