

Australian Bat Lyssavirus Expert Panel

Expert Panel findings

In July 2025, NSW Health convened an expert panel following the first reported case of Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV) in NSW. The panel included experts in infectious diseases, public health, immunisation, microbiology, and other external specialists to determine what factors may have led to the breakthrough infection. Involved organisations are listed below.

The expert panel was satisfied post-exposure wound management or treatment was provided appropriately, in accordance with the Australian Immunisation Handbook recommendations. The panel noted there are a small number of instances worldwide where lyssavirus infection has occurred following complete post-exposure treatment where the reason could not be determined.

The panel reaffirmed and emphasised that post exposure treatment is safe and effective in almost all cases.

NSW Health is reminding the community to avoid touching or handling bats. Any bat in Australia can carry lyssavirus, which is closely related to rabies. If you see a bat in distress, injured or trapped on the ground, do not try to rescue it. Instead, contact trained experts WIRES on 1300 094 737 or [your local wildlife rescue group](#).

Organisations involved in the ABLV expert panel:

- Health Protection NSW
- Clinical Excellence Commission
- NSW High Consequence Infectious Diseases Specialist Service
- Northern NSW Local Health District
- Hunter New England Local Health District
- National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
- NSW Health Pathology
- NSW State Preparedness and Response Unit
- Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation