



Letter of Guidance Regarding:

Rabies Vaccination Requirement for Fish & Wildlife, Conservation Biology and Big Game and Fur Students

Dear Student:

Your chosen program includes experience that places you at increased risk of exposure to Rabies i.e. handling mammal carcasses, so for health and safety reasons it is a **mandatory requirement** of this program that you be vaccinated and subsequently show proof of an adequate Rabies antibody level (a blood titre test) for 2nd & 3rd years. You must then maintain this adequate level. **See *Due Dates for your program year below.**

Rabies vaccination is a series of three doses over 4 weeks. Four weeks after the last dose, the Rabies antibody blood test is checked. **Minimum time required to complete the process is 2 ½ months, but can take 4 months if a booster is required.**

The cost of the vaccine is approx. \$660 (subject to change). A portion of the cost is covered by the Student Health Plan for full-time students. Alternatively, some private health insurance plans do provide coverage. **The Student Health Plan coverage starts after the commencement of your program, not until August 31st.** If you have partial private coverage you can coordinate benefits but must wait until after the start of classes and put through the Student Health Plan first as the primary coverage.

You can obtain vaccination through your health practitioner/walk-in-clinic and your local pharmacy.

Two types of Rabies vaccine are approved for use in Canada: **Rabavert, DIN 02267667** and **Imovax, DIN 01908286.**

- You will need a health practitioner's prescription for 3 doses of vaccine; take this form with you to explain your program requirements.
- Have your health practitioner complete the form on the next page, once you've received the 3 dose rabies immunization and completed the blood work (at least 4 weeks after the last dose).
- Make a photocopy for your records. Bring the completed form with you when you arrive on campus.

As Fish and Wildlife, Conservation Biology and Big Game and Fur students you must maintain an adequate level while in your Programs by repeating your titre every 6 or 12 months, as indicated by your antibody level. You will not be allowed to continue in the courses requiring Rabies antibody protection if you do not meet this requirement.

***Due Dates for each program year:**

1st year Fish and Wildlife Sept. 2020 or Jan. 2021 start – An adequate Rabies antibody level is due by Nov. 1, 2021.

2nd year Fish and Wildlife Sept. 2019 or Jan. 2020 start– An adequate Rabies antibody level is due by Jan. 1, 2021.

3rd year Fish and Wildlife Sept. 2018 or Jan. 2019 start – An adequate Rabies antibody level is due by Jan. 1, 2021

1st yr. Conservation Biology Sept. 2020 or Jan. 2021 start – An adequate Rabies antibody level is due by Sept. 1, 2021

2nd yr. Conservation Biology Jan. 2020 start – An adequate Rabies antibody level is due by Nov. 1, 2020

Big Game and Fur Jan. 2021 start – An adequate Rabies antibody level is due by Jan. 1, 2021.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Student Health Services via email Betty.mcneely@flemingcollege.ca

Other contacts: Coordinator for Fish & Wildlife and Big Game & Fur via email paul.ashley@flemingcollege.ca

Faculty for Conservation Biology via email josh.feltham@flemingcollege.ca





RABIES IMMUNIZATION MEDICAL FORM

Student Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Phone #: _____

Student ID #: _____

Program: Fish & Wildlife / Conservation Biology (circle one)

Program Start date: _____
(Month / Year)

The Fish & Wildlife, Conservation Biology and Big Game & Fur programs include experience that places students at increased risk of exposure to Rabies i.e handling mammal carcasses, so for health and safety reasons Rabies Immunization with an adequate antibody level is a **mandatory requirement** of this program.

If you have completed the 3 dose Rabies Immunization schedule, ask your Health Provider for a Rabies Antibody level test and to complete the form below confirming those results.

Bring a copy of this completed form with you when you return to campus.

Medical Office:

I, _____, declare this to be verification that _____
Physician/Nurse Student's Name

Completed 3 dose Rabies immunization series on: _____ (Date Completed).

OR 1 booster dose on: _____ (Date Given).

Collection Date of Rabies Titre : _____ Titre (Antibody level) Result: _____ IU/ml

To be measured at least 4 weeks after last injection.

A response < 0.5 IU/ml requires a booster and repeat titre.
A response > 0.5 and < 1.0 IU/ml is to be repeated in 6 months.
A response 1.0 or > 1.0 IU/ml is repeated in 1 year.

CLINIC STAMP:

STUDENT CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION:

I understand and agree that my Rabies immunization status will be released to my program instructors, the departments responsible for access to the College labs, and the Public Health Dept., as required. **It is the responsibility of the individual to maintain an adequate Rabies antibody level while in Fish & Wildlife, Conservation Biology Program and/or Big Game and Fur.** I hereby agree to be sent requisitions for blood work, and be informed of my Rabies immunization/antibody status via my Fleming Email Address.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

<p>FOR OFFICE USE:</p> <p>Date of Rabies Titre:</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Titre Results:</p> <p>_____ IU/ml</p> <p>(An adequate response after immunization, is > or = 0.5 IU/ml)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Signature of Verifying Health Professional</p>	<p>Next Titre Due:</p> <p>* _____</p> <p>Recommend:</p>	<p>Client Advised:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Signature</p>
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