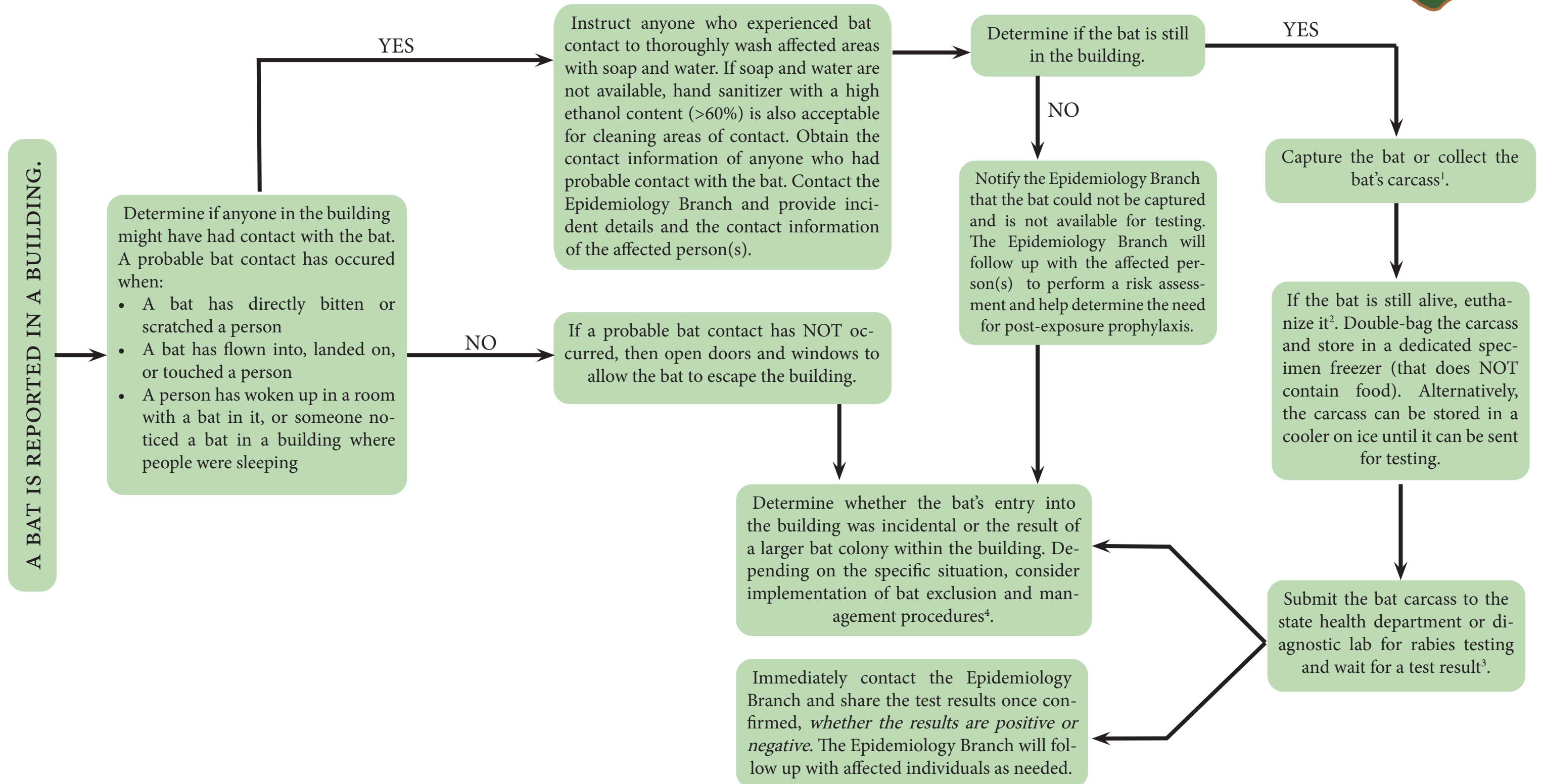


RESPONDING TO BATS IN BUILDINGS



Follow the steps of the flow chart in the case of a bat reported in a building. Potential rabies exposures are considered medical urgencies, so these procedures should be followed as quickly as possible.



Further Information

1. Capturing a bat

All individuals involved in bat capture should wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including leather gloves, long sleeves, long pants, close-toed shoes, and a wide-brimmed hat. If the bat is alive, or if you are unsure whether the bat is alive, capture the bat by trapping it in a small container and covering the container's opening with a piece of cardboard or other flat material. If the bat is clearly dead, collect the carcass by either (1) picking up the carcass with gloves on and placing it in a plastic bag or (2) wrapping a plastic bag around a hand, picking up the carcass with the bag-covered hand, inverting the bag around the carcass, and then sealing the bag. Always make sure to handle bats, living or dead, from the rear end in order to avoid accidental contact with the head and teeth. More information about how to handle bats can be found either [here](#) or [here](#).

2. Euthanizing a bat

The recommended method of euthanasia is overdose of an inhaled anesthetic (e.g., isoflurane or CO₂). If this is not feasible, cervical dislocation may be performed by experienced, rabies-vaccinated NPS personnel or a local veterinarian. Contact the [Wildlife Health Branch](#) if none of these options are possible, and ensure that the bat remains secured in the container in which it was caught until the Wildlife Health Branch can provide further guidance. Do NOT put a live bat into a freezer in the meantime or in order to euthanize it. More details on euthanasia procedures can be found [here](#) or [here](#).

3. Submitting a bat for rabies testing

Bat carcasses should be submitted to the state veterinary diagnostics lab for testing. For help determining where to send carcasses for testing, contact the Epidemiology Branch. For details on how to appropriately label, package, and ship bat carcasses for testing, see pages 24-26 of the [Safe Practices to Avoid Zoonotic Disease from Wildlife](#) manual.

4. Considerations for bat management

If the bat entering the building is incidental/a one-time event, take measures to prevent other bats from accidentally entering the building. These measures include ensuring doors and windows are securely closed and sealing any holes in the walls or the ceiling of the building, as bats can enter through even very small gaps. However, if the bat in the building is the result of a bat colony roosting in the building, more extensive bat exclusion practices may be implemented, depending on the season. Maternal colonies of bats present between April and August (specific times depend on the bat species, the geography, and the weather) should not be evicted or excluded. For basic information on and suggestions for pest exclusion, see Integrated Pest Management's [Rodent Exclusion Manual](#). The White Nose Society's [Acceptable Management Practices for Bat Control Activities](#) has bat-specific exclusion guidance, as well as information on circumstances when exclusion is unacceptable due to conservation concerns. Contact your park's biologist for more details on the specifics of the bat species within your park and area.

All further questions should be to the Office of Public Health email box: publichealthprogram@nps.gov