Bat incidents: Urgent matters, but not emergencies.

Bats sometimes carry the rabies virus. Rabies is fatal to persons and some pets. Vaccines are available to treat exposed persons and animals when appropriate.

Is there a bat in the room?

Yes

1. Clear everyone from the room if practical, and shut the door.
2. Do not harm or chase the bat.
3. NEVER touch a bat with bare hands.
4. Record names / contact info of anyone in room where bat was discovered.
5. Contact Harvard Operations and EH&S.

Has any person or pet been bitten, scratched or had contact with the bat?

Yes

Had anyone been asleep or unaware (a previously unattended child, mentally disabled or intoxicated person) in the room before the bat was discovered?

Yes

1. Contact Harvard Operations and ask them to contact EH&S.
2. Contact UHS, another medical clinician or the state or municipal public health department without delay.

Harvard University Operations
Cambridge: 617-495-5560
Boston: 617-432-1901

Harvard University Health Services
Cambridge: 617-495-5711
Boston: 617-432-1370

- EH&S will ask you a series of questions to inform decisions on appropriate responses.
- In some cases, personnel with specialized training and equipment will be sent to capture the bat for testing, and to close any openings through which the bat may have entered.
- Read these important resources:
  Massachusetts Department of Public Health: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rabies
  Centers for Disease Control: https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html