# **Poisoning**

## Note

If you see the telephone symbol ( ) next to any sign below occurring in the student, call for help (EMS/9-1-1, school nurse, first aid-trained staff).

### Look for

- Unresponsive
- Cannot get the student to respond; student not able to follow directions or think clearly
- Convulsions
- Slow or absent breathing
- Unexplained, severe, acute illness
- Vomiting
- Drowsiness
- Reddened eyes
- Pinpoint or dilated pupils
- Pale, blue, bright red skin
- Stains in/around mouth
- Skin irritation
- Unusual odors
- Residue on clothing
- Suspicious bottle or container
- Tearing, inability to keep eyes open, red, bloodshot
- Headache, dizziness

# Poisoning information is continued on the next page

# Poisoning (continued)

## **Listen for** Signs of

Coughing, choking, gasping

#### And statements about:

- Difficulty breathing or swallowing, in contact with poisonous material/large doses of medication
- Diarrhea
- Burning, itching skin
- Stomach pain, cramping
- Nausea

#### **Action**

- Protect yourself from exposure. Do not enter any area that is unsafe or where students are unconscious without knowledge of the agents to which the students have been exposed and without the required protective equipment.
- 2. If safe to do so, remove student from source of poison. For poisonous fumes, have student breathe fresh air right away.
- 3. Begin CPR (p. 37) for absent breathing if you are trained.
- 4. Direct call to Poison Help Hotline (1-800-222-1222) for medical guidance.
- Call EMS/9-1-1 if the student is displaying any life-threatening signs or symptoms.
- 6. Save all containers found near student, known poison, and any vomitus from student.
- 7. For skin contact poisoning, brush dry poisons off first before flushing. Do not touch this residue. As possible, remove contaminated clothing before beginning to flush skin with large amounts of water; continue to flush until directed by EMS/Poison Center to stop.
- 8. If contact with poisonous plant is suspected, direct student to wash affected area with soap and water. Call school nurse and parent. If a nurse is unavailable, share with parent the need for immediate medical attention.
- 9. For ingested poison, do not induce vomiting. Follow instructions of Poison Center or EMS.
- 10. For poison in the eye, flush the eye for at least 20 minutes (see "Eye Injury," p. 45).
- 11. All victims ingesting a poison in a suicide attempt need to be transported for emergency medical assessment.

# Poisoning information is continued on the next page

# Poisoning (continued)

# **Pepper Spray/Mace**

### Action

- 1. Protect yourself from exposure.
- 2. Move student, as possible, to fresh air. Facilities staff may assist with initiating air fans if it will dissipate the chemical without exposing new persons.
- 3. Advise student to avoid rubbing face, eyes, etc.
- 4. Flush involved areas with cool water. Non oil-based or cold cream-based soaps may assist in removing particles. Do not use salves or oils on area.
- 5. Remove contact lenses once hands are clean.
- 6. Remove clothing contaminated with chemical residue and double bag and seal it.
- 7. Advise parents of incident and of recommendation to seek medical care if pain or irritation continues or eyes are uncomfortable after 20 minutes of flushing.