

Stings (Bee/Hornet/Wasp/Scorpion/Fire Ants/Sea Animals)

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
 - ☎ Breathing problems/absent breathing
 - ☎ Hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, drooling
 - Rapidly growing area of redness and swelling surrounding sting or swelling (especially on face, lips, mouth, or tongue) that may be moving to other body parts
 - Identification of allergy to insect/aquatic stings (such as a medical ID tag or bracelet)

Listen for *statements about*

- Reported allergic reaction to insect stings
- Dizziness

Action

1. For breathing problems, hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, generalized swelling or hives activate EMS/9-1-1 and follow directions in “Allergic Reaction” (p. 11).
2. When stung by bee, look for and scrape bee stinger away (e.g., using a plastic card), as possible.
3. Wash the area with soap and water. Leave blisters from fire ants intact.
4. Apply ice (wrapped in cloth) or cool compress to reduce swelling and provide comfort. Ice may be applied for up to 10 minutes for swelling and discomfort for insect bites and stings, but never for snakebites.
5. If unsure of sea animal, call Poison Help Hotline (1-800-222-1222) and follow directions received.
6. For jellyfish: Flush area in vinegar for at least 30 seconds; after vinegar treatment, for pain relief immerse area with hot water (non-scalding) for at least 20 minutes or until pain is relieved.
7. For stingray: Control any bleeding. Soak in hot water (non-scalding) for pain relief.
8. Monitor students not having breathing problems for at least 30 minutes under direct observation for signs of allergic reaction.
9. If a nurse is unavailable, notify parent of event and to watch for signs of delayed allergic reaction (p. 11).

Always follow school district policy when providing first aid or emergency care.

