

PROCEDURES FOR HUMAN BITING INCIDENT

The risk of getting Hepatitis B virus (HBV) from a bite is extremely low for either the child who did the biting or the child or staff member who was bitten. It is very difficult to spread this virus by biting. In addition, many infants are now being vaccinated against the Hepatitis B virus as are all Kindergarteners since 2000, and 7th graders since 2001. The number of children with chronic Hepatitis B infection is expected to be low. However, biting may cause an infection at the bite site. Following is a list of duties and person(s) responsible for carrying them out in the event of a biting incident in school.

Building Principal:

If an employee reports to them that they've been bitten by a student, or a student was bitten by another student, the school principal must require them to report the incident to the school health paraprofessional or the licensed school nurse if she's present. The principal should work with the classroom teacher and others involved to determine how to present a repeat occurrence. The principal will inform parents of the child doing the biting as well as the parents of the "victim" if it's a student.

School Health Paraprofessional (SHP) or Licensed School Nurse (LSN):

What to do if a biting incident occurs in school:

1. Determine if the bite broke the skin (produced an open wound or puncture wound) and/or caused bleeding.
2. Wear gloves when providing immediate first aid to the bite wound if blood is present and amount of blood warrants them.
3. Report incident to the LSN who'll evaluate for bloodborne pathogens per the exposure control plan (ECP), and document on appropriate forms.
4. If the bite broke the skin, the nurse will encourage the "victim" (or their parents) to talk with their healthcare provider as soon as possible for any further instructions. The nurse will provide them with the forms for reporting, testing, etc. Document the incident in writing on the proper incident report form and the forms for the ECP if there was an exposure.
5. The nurse will document the incident in writing on the proper forms for the ECP if there was an exposure.

Parent/Guardian of Student "Victim" or Staff Member That was Bitten:

Reasons to call your healthcare provider:

1. Human bites may cause an infection at the bite site. You may wish to contact your physician for evaluation to rule out infection. Signs of infection include the following:
 - Increased swelling, redness, warmth, or tenderness at the site.

- Pus at the site.
 - Fever of 100 degrees F or higher.
 - If any of these symptoms start or if your child begins to act sick or the wound doesn't heal, call your healthcare provider immediately.
2. Make sure both people involved are up to date for tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis and Hepatitis B vaccinations. Staff should be up to date with their immunizations as well. You may want to see if blood tests or treatment are needed. It is unlikely that the bite will be the source of infection for Hepatitis B but each situation must be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Prevention and Control:

1. Parents/guardians and school staff should develop a behavior modification plan to prevent further incidents.
2. A child who continues to bite should be assessed by a team of school employees to determine an appropriate response plan to prevent recurrence.