



## INSECT STINGS

Most of the time insects are harmless. However, if the person is allergic, an insect sting can lead to anaphylaxis, a life-threatening condition.

Continue reading to learn more on what to do for someone who has been stung by an insect or suspects that they have been



## BITES AND STINGS

People are bitten or stung by insects, spiders, or other wildlife every day. Most of the time, a bite or sting does not cause a serious problem. However, in rare circumstances, certain bites and stings can cause serious illnesses or death in people who are sensitive to the venom.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Signals of an insect sting include:

- Presence of the stinger
- Pain
- Swelling
- Signals of an allergic reaction

The same signals of any type of animal or insect bite apply as well, but you are searching for the bite mark if one is present.

## WHAT TO DO

If you suspect that the person has been stung by an insect, please refer to the following:

- Remove any visible stinger. Scrape it away from the skin with a clean fingernail or tweezers. A plastic card, such as a credit card, may also be used. In the case of a bee sting, if you use tweezers, grasp the stinger, not the venom sac.
- Wash the site with soap and water
- Cover it and keep it clean
- Apply a cold pack to the area to reduce pain and swelling
- Call 9-1-1 if the person has trouble breathing, or any signs of an allergic reaction or anaphylaxis

## FURTHER ILLNESSES

Some insect bites or stings can also cause illnesses to develop (Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever). If you suspect that the victim that was stung or bite and may have come into contact with one of these illnesses, seek further medical attention.

*\*\*Please be sure to refer to your companies' safety manual for specific insect stings/bite related issues\*\**