

Human Biting Incidents

Biting incidents at a day nursery can be a very emotional issue for the children, parents and day nursery staff involved because of the small risk of transmitting blood-borne diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. However the main concern is wound infection.

The following are the recommended steps you should take after a biting incident occurs at your facility:

- 1. Provide appropriate first aid**
 - Wash thoroughly with soap and water
 - If the wound is bleeding wear gloves
- 2. Seek prompt medical attention if necessary**
- 3. Check the immunization records of those involved to see if they are up-to-date with tetanus immunizations. If they are not up-to-date (s)he will need a booster dose.**
- 4. Contact the parents/guardians of those involved in the incident**
 - Inform them that there is a very low risk of transmission of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV from human bites
 - Parents may wish to discuss the need for blood testing with their doctors
- 5. If over the next few days, redness, swelling, or other evidence of infection develops the individual should see their doctor**

NOTE: If there is no broken skin or bleeding, no medical follow-up is necessary

If you have further questions please contact the Communicable Disease Intake Line at 613-966-5513 ext. 349