

Animal and Human Bites



When to Get Help

Go to the nearest Emergency Department or Urgent Care Centre if you experience:

- Fever, chills or flu-like symptoms.
- Increased swelling, redness or warmth, especially if spreading towards the heart.
- Increased levels of pain.
- Yellow/green drainage of fluid from the wound (pus) or a foul smell.

These are signs of infection, and you should see a healthcare provider as soon as possible.

To Learn More:

- Ask your health care provider.
- Go to HealthLinkBC - call 8-1-1 (7-1-1 for deaf or hard of hearing) or go online to www.HealthLinkBC.ca



Vecteezy.com

Recommended Follow-Up

- Follow up in ___ days.

Name of Provider

Reason

Date/Time

Location

Contact Info

- _____
- _____



How to Care for Yourself at Home

Proper care is important for preventing infection and promoting healing.

Wound Care



CLEANING

Wash the area with soap and water, pat dry with a clean cloth or gauze. Cover the wound using a sterile bandage and change daily or as directed by your doctor. If the wound is healing without irritation, you can remove the dressings after 48 hours.

STITCHES

Your healthcare team may have decided to stitch your wound closed. Keep the stitches dry for the first 24 hours, then follow the cleaning

The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team. This information does not replace the advice given to you by your health care provider.



EMERGENCY CARE BC
Provincial Health Services Authority

EmergencyCareBC.ca

Animal and Human Bites Discharge Instructions - continued

instructions above. Protect your stitches by avoiding activities that may pull or strain them (e.g., weightlifting or vigorous exercise). For further information on caring for your stitches, refer to the [ECBC Wound Care resource](#).

Treatment

ANTIBIOTICS

Topical or oral antibiotics may be prescribed depending on your bite wound to treat or prevent infection.



IMMUNIZATIONS

You may receive a tetanus shot if needed. You may have also received a rabies shot if you were bitten by a bat.

PAIN MANAGEMENT

Over the counter medication such as acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (e.g., Advil®, Motrin®) can be taken for pain or discomfort. **Avoid taking aspirin** for pain as it can increase bleeding risk unless directed by your doctor. If you were prescribed pain medication, ask your primary care provider or pharmacist if you can take medications for pain prior to using them.

Prevention

AVOID PROVOKING ANIMALS

Some animals may attack you if they feel threatened, use caution with unfamiliar animals.



PET VACCINATION

Ensure pets are properly vaccinated and trained to avoid bites.

MEDICAL ATTENTION

Seek assistance if bitten by an animal or human as soon as possible.

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Notes:

Additional Information

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