

Honeybee Safety Action Plan

Reduce the Risk of Being Stung

1. Never throw anything at bees or agitate them. Remain clear of their hive entry. Never stand in front of the hive entrance/exit, but rather stay to the side to observe.
2. If you come close to a honeybee, remain calm and do not provoke them. Bees are generally very gentle when unprovoked.
3. Most honeybees and insects will not attack if left alone.
4. If a single stinging insect is flying around, remain still. Swinging or swatting at an insect may cause it to sting. Bees will sting in defense of its nest or itself, but they do not want to!
5. If you are attacked by several stinging insects at the same time, move away from the hive. Bees release a chemical when they sting. This alerts other bees to the intruder. More bees often follow. If this occurs proceed indoors or to a shaded area outside away from the hive.
6. If there is a colony of bees swarming in a tree, remain away from the tree. Do not throw anything at the bees and remain calm, a bee swarm is not concerned with you, but rather the safety of the Queen Bee. Notify an educator if you see a swarm. All students will be advised to stay away from the identified area until the beekeeper arrives to relocate the bees.

What to Do if Someone is Stung by a Honeybee

1. Have someone stay with the person who was stung to be sure that they do not have an allergic reaction.
2. Take the person in question to an educator or the school nurse.
3. Wash the area stung with soap and water.
4. The stinger can be removed using a 4x4-inch gauze, a rough cloth, a credit card, or use a fingernail to scrape over the area. Never squeeze the stinger or use tweezers. It will cause more venom to be released.
5. Apply ice to reduce the swelling.
6. Do not scratch the sting. This will cause the site to swell, itch more, and increase chances of infection.

First Aid for Bee Stings

1. Go to the school nurse immediately for closer examination. Apply ice to the sting site.
2. The nurse will scrape the stinger out from the stung area — never squeeze or pull out the stinger.
3. Persons who present mild symptoms of a reaction will be monitored closely and parents will be contacted.
4. Persons who present signs of a severe allergic reaction will be monitored closely, parents immediately contacted, and an EpiPen will be used if deemed absolutely necessary.
5. Parent will be notified by phone or letter that their child suffered a bee sting while at school.

Allergic Reactions to Bee Stings

Insect Sting Warning: Allergic reactions to bee stings can be deadly. People with known allergies to any insect stings should always carry an insect sting allergy kit (EpiPen) and wear a medical ID bracelet or necklace stating their allergy. Refer to your physician about obtaining either of these.

Signs of an Allergic Reaction: Look for swelling that moves to other parts of the body, especially the face or neck. Check for difficulty in breathing, wheezing, dizziness or a drop in blood pressure. If any of these symptoms occur, seek immediate medical attention. It is normal for the stung area to be sore, have a hard swollen lump, have redness, or be itchy. We advise icing the area to for pain relief or an insect sting lotion.