

Bees, wasps, and other “stingers”: Keep your child safe!



Common sense precautions to avoid stings

- ✦ Stay away from known beehives or hornet nests to avoid causing what the stinging insects perceive to be a threat
- ✦ Spray nests with insecticide after dark, when hives are less active, or engage a professional to remove the nest
- ✦ Wear shoes—not sandals—outdoors
- ✦ Avoid wearing brightly colored or loose clothing. Insects are attracted to bright colors, and can become trapped in loose clothing.
- ✦ Avoid wearing perfume outdoors in the summer
- ✦ Keep food and drinks covered when not in use
- ✦ Keep garbage cans covered tightly
- ✦ Know where stinging insects in your area build their nests and what odors or foods attract them
- ✦ If you or your child is stung, scrape or brush off the stinger with a sharp edge, taking care not to squeeze the attached venom sac. Or, remove the stinger with tweezers or any other available method.

If your child is allergic to stings

- ✦ Make sure he or she wears an appropriate medical alert ID
- ✦ Always have an emergency kit available, especially during the insect season
- ✦ Know how to use a pre-loaded epinephrine autoinjector, and have a supply available
- ✦ Epinephrine is light-sensitive, and should be stored in a light-resistant container. Do not administer epinephrine if the solution is brown or otherwise discolored or if a precipitate is present.
- ✦ Seek medical assistance as soon as possible after administering these medications