

**SNAKE BITE FIRST AID PROCEDURE**

*Sources: St Johns Ambulance Australia* [*www.*stjohn.org.au](http://www.stjohn.org.au)

 [www.healthdirect.gov.au/**snake**-**bites**](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au/snake-bites)

 [www.whatsnakeisthat.com.au/snake-bite.html](http://www.whatsnakeisthat.com.au/snake-bite.html)

For any suspected bite call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance

There are around 2000 snakebites recorded in Australia every year. Of these 200 require administration of anti-venom. On average 2-3 people die from snakebite in Australia every year. The number of fatalities attributed to snakebite in Australia is low largely due to improved first aid and the development of effective anti-venom.

Hospitals have a kit that can identify the type of snake from the venom on the skin or clothing, it is no longer necessary to capture the snake or endanger yourself trying to identify the type of snake.

DO NOT wash venom off the skin. This is used to determine the type of snake

DO NOT cut the bitten area.

DO NOT try to suck venom out of wound.

DO NOT use a tourniquet.

DO NOT try to catch the snake.

Signs are not always visible but may be a puncture marks, bleeding or scratches.

Symptoms developing within an hour may include headache, impaired vision, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, breathing difficulties, drowsiness, faintness, problems speaking or swallowing.

**FIRST AID**

1. **Ask another staff member or parent to CALL “000” and to wait by front gate for the ambulance. Our address is 1a Cockburn Road, Jamestown. 08 8664 1276.**

**Also to call Jamestown hospital on 08 8664 1406 that a snake bite has occurred and the patient will be transferred asap.**

1. **Follow DRSABCD.**
2. **Reassure the patient and ask them not to move.**
3. **Apply a broad crepe bandage over the bite site as soon as possible.**
4. **Apply a pressure bandage (heavy crepe or elasticised roller bandage) starting just above the fingers or toes of the bitten limb, and move upwards on the limb as far as can be reached (include the snake bite). Apply firmly without stopping blood supply to the limb.**
5. **Immobilise the bandaged limb with splints. Ensure the patient does not move.**
6. **Write down the time of the bite and when the bandage was applied. Stay with the patient.**
7. **Regularly check circulation in fingers or toes.**
8. **Manage for shock.**
9. **Write down to give to the Paramedics any known allergies or health conditions and next of kin information.**

Sources: DECD - *First aid in early childhood centres and schools*

 [www.chess.sa.edu.au/Pathways/firstaidbook09.pdf](http://www.chess.sa.edu.au/Pathways/firstaidbook09.pdf)

 DECD Emergency Management

 [www.crisis.sa.edu.au](http://www.crisis.sa.edu.au)

This Emergency Procedure is written in conjunction with the Centre’s Emergency Management Plan as a written set of instructions that outlines what our staff and parents should do in an emergency. All Staff, including contractors, must be aware the Emergency Management Plan and evacuation procedures.

**In the instance where a child or educator suffers a (or there is a suspected) snake bite then the following procedure is to apply:**

**Emergency Procedure**

**Snake Bite**

1. Do not try to kill the snake, if possible
2. Follow the Centre Emergency Evacuation Procedure. Relocate all onsite children and adults to an alternative area from where the bite occurred (or was suspected).
* This may mean going inside the building. Use rolled up towels and blankets to block entry under doors etc.
1. Apply First Aid. Certified supervisor to ensure that first aid is being given to the victim. Always assume that the snake was venomous.

**FIRST AID RESPONSE – refer to Snake Bite First Aid Procedure on WHS Board and in First Aid kits.**

1. Certified supervisor to make the phone calls as listed below, or nominate staff member to organise the following calls.

Use the mobile phone or a cordless phone to call an ambulance so the phone can be given to the person/s administering First Aid to hear advice from the emergency services operators.

1. Contact **ambulance services** **“000”** and follow their advice for treatment and transfer procedure to hospital
2. Notify the **Jamestown Hospital 8664 1406** that a snake bite has occurred and that the person will be transferred ASAP.
3. Contact **Jamestown Community School** **8664 2700**
	1. Let them know in case the ambulance goes to the school first.
	2. If help is needed or if we are evacuating to the school stadium.
	3. Where and when the snake was seen, and where it is currently. If perceived to still be a threat, ask for the Facilities manager to arrange for it to be removed.
4. Notify the **next of kin** of the bitten person.
5. Notify Director Tegan Carkle 0418 258 696.
6. Where the service is operating with one staff person, contact most recently finished staff member for assistance.
7. If evacuated to another site, notify families of where they can pick up their children.