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Physicians Health Center

OCCUPATIONAL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Treatment for Animal Bites and Scratches

For superficial bites from a familiar household pet that is immunized and in good health:

- Wash the wound with soap and water under pressure from a faucet for at least 5 minutes. Don't scrub as this may bruise the tissue. Apply an antiseptic lotion or cream.
- Watch for signs of infection at the site, such as increased redness or pain, swelling, or drainage, or if you develop a fever. Direct to Physicians Health Center right away if any of these occur.

For deeper bites or puncture wounds from any animal, or for any bite from a strange animal:

- If the bite or scratch is bleeding, apply pressure to it with a clean bandage or towel to stop the bleeding.
- Wash the wound with soap and water under pressure from a faucet for at least 5 minutes. Don't scrub as this may bruise the tissue.
- Dry the wound and cover it with a sterile dressing. Don't use tape or butterfly bandages to close the wound as this could trap harmful bacteria in the wound.
- **Direct employee to Physicians Health Center to determine if further treatment is needed. This may include antibiotics, a tetanus booster, or rabies vaccination. This is especially important for bites on the face or for bites that cause deeper puncture wounds of the skin.**

Physicians Health Center Locations

Airport - 6221 NW 36 St., Miami, FL 33166 - (305) 871-3627

North Dade - 20535 NW 2nd Ave., Suite 150, Miami, FL 33169 - (305) 653-7720

Hialeah - 6990 NW 37 Ave., Miami, FL 33147 - (305) 691-5050

Kendall - 7887 N. Kendall Drive, Suite 102, Miami, FL 33156 - (305) 279-7722

South Dade - 1448 N. Krome Ave., Suite 101, Florida City, FL 33034 - (305) 245-0222