



# RESPONDING TO HUMAN BITES



## Summary

A human bite is when a person, typically a child, bites another person. Human bites that break the skin may or may not be an “Exposure Incident” for the person who is *bitten*. Bites that break the skin are, however, an exposure incident for the *biter*.

The following details steps to take if you experience a human bite in the course of your job duties or studies.

## Response Steps

1

Thoroughly wash the bite site with soap and water for 15 minutes. While washing, begin evaluation the bite site.

2

Evaluate the bite site thoroughly. Did the bite break the skin? If so, proceed to step 3.

3

Evaluate the biter’s oral cavity or instruct another competent individual to evaluate the oral cavity.

Specifically, check for:

- Visible signs of blood
- Loose or recently missing teeth (children may have teeth that are exfoliating or erupting)
- Very red, puffy, inflamed gingiva (gums)

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If any of the above are present in the oral cavity, or if differentiation is difficult, it is safest to assume an exposure incident has occurred for the bitten individual. Follow Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Incident Response guidelines.

If the above conditions were NOT present, an exposure incident is not thought to have occurred for the bitten individual. That said, it is still highly recommended to seek medical treatment. Additionally, please report to Risk Management so incident tracking can occur.

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Contact Risk Management if you have any questions relating to human bite incidents: [risk@twu.edu](mailto:risk@twu.edu) or 940-898-4001