

First Aid FAQs

Questions a Student Might Ask

Why does the tongue swell in a severe allergic reaction?

An allergic reaction causes the release of chemical mediators (such as histamines) in the body. If the person experiences a severe allergic reaction, he may experience symptoms such as swelling (edema) of the tongue. Swelling of the face, neck, or tongue can block the airway and make it difficult to breathe.

Why is it OK to do a head tilt–chin lift on a person who may have a head, neck, or spine injury?

Someone who isn't breathing won't survive if you don't give him breaths. There are other methods of opening the airway, but they also may move the head, neck, or spine, and the other methods may not be as successful for opening the airway.

Why don't you give anything by mouth to a person with diabetes who isn't responding?

If the person isn't responding, she may choke.

Why do you put a knocked-out tooth in milk?

The following solutions have demonstrated efficacy at prolonging dental cell viability from 30 to 120 minutes, and they may be available to first aid providers: Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (containing calcium, potassium chloride and phosphate, magnesium chloride and sulfate, sodium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, sodium phosphate dibasic, and glucose), propolis, egg white, coconut water, Ricetral, or whole milk.

Why is it best to have non-latex gloves in the first aid kit?

Some people are very allergic to latex. Some people don't know they are allergic to latex. Just putting on gloves releases latex into the air.

Suppose I don't get any blood or body fluids on my gloves. Can I reuse them?

No. You may not see any blood or body fluids on the gloves. However, some may still be there. Remove and dispose of the gloves properly.

How do I know whether bleeding is major or minor?

The most important action for bleeding you can see is to stop the bleeding with pressure. If you see a lot of blood (a major cut), use pressure to stop the bleeding. If the cut is not bleeding or is a small abrasion, assume the cut is minor. Wash a minor cut with soap and water before applying a bandage.