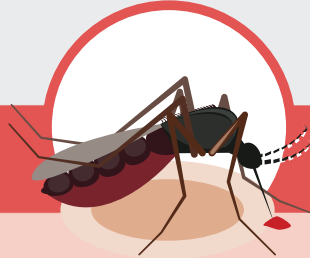


Australian insects: biters guide

healthdirect.gov.au

Biters



Biters use their mouths to suck blood. They can infect you with diseases.

Stingers



Stingers inject you with venom, which can trigger an allergic reaction.



Dial triple zero (000) and ask for an ambulance if you suspect that either you or someone else is having a severe allergic reaction

Common biters

Mosquitoes



Mosquito before feeding



Mosquito after feeding



Key facts

- Diseases can be passed on to people through mosquito bites.
- You can protect yourself against mosquitoes biting you.



Mosquito-borne diseases acquired in Australia



Ross River virus



Murray Valley encephalitis



Barmah Forest virus



Dengue

Mosquitoes continued



Mosquito bite prevention DOs and DON'Ts



DOs

- **Do** use repellents outdoors and insecticides indoors
- **Do** screen windows, doorways and tents, if camping
- **Do** wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts



DON'Ts

- **Don't** create mosquito breeding opportunities at home (standing water)
- **Don't** go to wetlands at dawn or dusk
- **Don't** think you don't attract mosquitoes

Symptoms and treatments

Type of reaction



Local reaction



Key fact: Most people will have a local reaction after being stung or bitten.



Severe allergic reaction



Key fact: People at risk are advised to have a personal action plan to manage a severe allergic reaction.

Symptoms and treatments

Symptoms



Burning pain



Skin swelling



Redness



Itching

Have you been bitten or stung?

*healthdirect's Symptom Checker can help you
decide what to do next*

www.healthdirect.gov.au/symptom-checker



Flushing



Collapsing



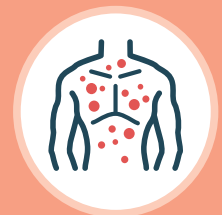
Difficulty
breathing, talking
or swallowing



Coughing or
wheezing



Itching around the
eyes, ears, lips,
throat or mouth



A rash that may
appear anywhere
on the body



Swelling of the
mouth, throat or
tongue



Stomach
cramps

Symptoms and treatments

Treatments



Clean stung
area



Apply ice
pack



Take a
painkiller



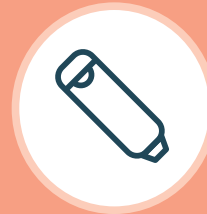
Antihistamine
tablets



Call triple zero
(000)



Personal
action plan



Administer adrenaline via
an autoinjector or EpiPen