**INITIAL CARE:**
• As soon as possible after injury, cleanse wound well with soap and lots of water.
• Remove all dirt and foreign material.
• Cover with a clean dry bandage for 24-48 hours, if the wound is wet or bleeding.
• Elevate the injured area as much as possible to help relieve pain and promote healing.
• Keep the dressing clean and dry and change as often as needed.
• If the fingers or toes below a wound become blue, cold, swollen or numb, loosen the dressing. Replace dressing after bathing or showering.
• Eat a well balanced diet and drink 8 to 10 glasses of water per day.
• Watch for signs of infection.

**SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF INFECTION:**
• Redness, swelling, increased tenderness, or increased warmth of the skin around the wound.
• Red streaks in the skin near the injury.
• Tender bumps or swelling (lymph nodes) near the wound, in the neck, armpit, or groin.
• Pus or cloudy discharge from the wound itself.
• Generalized body aches, chills, or fever.

**CONTACT HEALTH SERVICES:**
• If your wound won’t stop bleeding or you have numbness or difficulty moving a muscle or joint.
• If you develop any signs of wound infection (listed above).
• If you can’t get all the dirt or foreign material out of the wound.
• If loosening a tight bandage fails to relieve symptoms of numbness, swelling, cold or discoloration in fingers or toes below the wound.
• If you have been told to come to Health Services for dressing changes.
• If you have been given an antibiotic and you have a reaction to or can’t tolerate it.
• If you have any new or unexplained symptoms or anything else that may concern you.
• If it has been more than 5 years since your last tetanus booster or if you don’t know when you last received your booster.

CONTACT HEALTH SERVICES IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.