**TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH STAFF**

**LACERATIONS**

Authorized health and wellness staff may treat lacerations as follows:

1. Stop bleeding by direct compression to the wound with sterile gauze. Elevate the extremity with the laceration.
2. If bleeding does not slow or stop with 5 minutes of direct pressure, call 911.
3. Irrigate the laceration with sterile saline, cover the wound with clean gauze, and have the student evaluated by the center physician as soon as possible. Address any other injuries.
4. For small wounds with straight edges, gently pull the edges together narrowing the gap of the wound and apply steri-strips or butterfly adhesives to keep the edges approximated. Larger wounds will likely require local anesthesia for debridement and suturing.
5. Check immunization status and give tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) booster immunization when indicated. Refer to Immunization Technical Assistance Guide.
6. For wounds on the extremities, if you are alone and CPR is needed, assess the airway, place a tourniquet on the bleeding extremity and resume CPR.
7. For wounds on the trunk and head, assess the airway, stop or control bleeding, and resume CPR.

# WHEN TO REFER TO THE CENTER PHYSICIAN

* If the wound appears contaminated with dirt, debris, or chemicals despite irrigation
* If it is a large or deep wound needing sutures