Dental Trauma

Primary Tooth

- Fracture with bleeding or loose tooth:
  - Avoid cold foods
  - See dentist immediately

- Tooth out of socket, fracture with no bleeding, slight mobility:
  - See dentist within 48 hours

Permanent Tooth

Tooth out of socket

- Pick up tooth by crown
- Rinse with water or saline for 10 seconds
- Do not touch root
- See dentist immediately

Tooth displaced and/or very mobile

- See dentist immediately

Tooth slightly mobile

- Soft diet to minimize further harm
- See dentist within 48 hours

Tooth is fractured and/or chipped

- Keep and store fractured segment (if found) in small vial with tissue or cotton
- Avoid cold foods
- See dentist immediately

Option 1:

- Place gently back in socket
- Bite on gauze
- See dentist immediately

Option 2:

- Store in milk, saliva, saline, or between cheek and gum
- See dentist immediately

In a dental emergency
- Stay calm and reassure the student
- Notify the parent and/or guardian
- Wear gloves with any bleeding
- Rule out head injury
- Rule out jaw fracture (e.g., is bite alignment off?)

For any impact or injury involving the head
- Evaluate for concussion
  - Nausea and vomiting
  - Dizziness
  - Headache
  - Dilated pupils
  - Cold/clammy skin

Helpful supplies
- Saline
- Gauze
- Save-A-Tooth Kits (www.saveatooth.com)

DENTAL TRAUMA DECISION TREE
This information is designed to aid school nurses, teachers, and athletic coaches in treating minor dental emergencies.

For help finding dental care: www.health.ri.gov/find/oralhealthservices