

What is an insect sting allergy?

Definition:

Bee, wasp, yellow jacket, hornet, or fire ant stings are the insect stings that most often trigger allergies. However, most people are not allergic to insect stings and may mistake a normal sting reaction for an allergic reaction.

Symptoms:

Severe

- Difficulty breathing
- Hives that appear as a red, itchy rash and spread to areas beyond the sting
- Swelling of the face, throat, or mouth tissue
- Wheezing or difficulty swallowing
- Restlessness and anxiety
- Rapid pulse
- Dizziness or a sharp drop in blood pressure

Mild

- Pain
- Redness
- Pimple-like spots
- Mild to moderate swelling
- Warmth at the sting site
- Itching

Tests/Diagnosis:

- Skin prick test, a 30 to 60 minute in office procedure
- Allergy blood test

Treatments:

- Over the counter medications can ease symptoms
- Epinephrine is available by prescription
- Hyposensitization immunotherapy (allergy shots)

Call South Bay Allergy and Asthma or go on to our website at southbayallergy.com to schedule an appointment.

