

Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne Pathogens are viruses found in blood and bodily fluids that can be passed to others. Most notable and virulent are Hepatitis B, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C.

Who is Potentially at Risk at a School District?

Employees whose job duty it is to attend to injured or sick students or co-workers, and students with special needs such as Noon Duty Employees, Nurses, Health Clerks, Paraprofessionals, Special Education Staff, Coaches or Designated Responders, or those who have other contact with blood or bodily fluids (including vomit), most notably, Custodians have an occupational exposure to blood and bodily fluids.

How Can You Protect Yourself?

Following Universal or Standard Precautions will keep you safe from Blood borne Pathogens. Standard Precautions is an approach to all blood and bodily fluids as if they had a disease.

- Handwashing for 30 seconds with a mild soap and water whenever coming into contact with blood or bodily fluids and after glove removal.
- Use of Gloves whenever handling blood or bodily fluids or attending injured students where blood is present. Water impervious gloves should be worn to ensure protection from viruses; other PPE should be worn as necessary to prevent splashes in the eye and or blood on clothing.
- Appropriate use of Disinfectants on areas where there was a blood or bodily fluid spill. Users must know how long it takes for a disinfectant to work and use it correctly to ensure all viruses have been killed, most take 10 minutes.
- Appropriate Trash Disposal ensuring that others are protected by using biohazard bags or double lined trash bags. Use of sharps containers for all potentially infected instruments such as syringes, lancets or epi-pens.
- Using a mask or barrier device when assisting with CPR.

