

BLOOD BORNE PATHOGEN INFORMATION for Volunteers

Be Safe – Use Caution

The risk of contracting a blood borne pathogen disease such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HTV in the school setting is extremely low, but does exist. It is important to take time to protect yourself before rushing to the aid of a child who is experiencing a bloody nose or is bleeding from a cut or scratch. Resist the natural impulse to rush to a child's aid without regard to your own personal safety.

Allow the teacher to care for the situation if at all possible. If the teacher is not immediately available, put a barrier between yourself and the blood before touching the child. Ideally, this barrier should include latex or vinyl gloves, but several layers of tissue, paper towels or other material may be used if you do not have gloves. Be prepared by knowing where gloves, tissues and paper towels can be found.

Care for Exposures Immediately

If you get blood or other body fluids visible contaminated with blood on broken/non-intact skin or if you are stuck by a contaminated sharp object or bitten or scratched hard enough to draw blood, you should: encourage bleeding from the injury, wash the area thoroughly with soap and water, notify the school principal and go to Corporate Occupational Health Solutions (301-698-3001) for evaluation. If the blood is only on your clothing or is on intact skin, it is not a true exposure and follow-up is not necessary.