



Volunteers & Bloodborne Pathogens



Dear volunteers,

Thank you for sharing your time with the students and staff of ISD 2687. We welcome you and wish you a great experience!

Scraped knees, minor cuts and nosebleeds are a common occurrence in a population of young adults and children. It is important to be aware of bloodborne pathogens in these scenarios.

What is a bloodborne pathogen?

- Bloodborne pathogens are microscopic organisms in an infected person's blood. Diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are most commonly spread.

How could bloodborne pathogens spread at school?

- Bloodborne pathogens are spread through contact with infected blood.
- If blood is visible, bloodborne pathogens may also be found in body fluids such as nasal secretions, spit, vomit, urine or feces.
- The infection can enter your body through the eyes, mouth, nose or broken skin.

How do I protect myself from potential bloodborne pathogens?

- Treat all blood as if it contains bloodborne pathogens.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds if you suspect contact with blood or body fluids containing blood.
- Wait for a trained staff member with gloves to provide first aid. If a student is injured and bleeding, instruct them to hold pressure to the site independently.

What should I do if I suspect I was potentially exposed to a bloodborne pathogen?

- Contact the supervising staff member, health office staff member or the district licensed school nurse *immediately* if you suspect you were potentially exposed to bloodborne pathogens. Health office staff will provide first aid and further instructions.

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