

# At School with Bloodborne Pathogens

“If it’s wet  
and not yours,  
don’t touch it.”

Catchy phrase.  
Easy to remember.

But in order to protect yourself from becoming infected with bloodborne pathogens in your work at school, there are some important facts you need to know.

Bloodborne pathogens (**BBPs**)  
are viruses that  
can spread from one  
person to another through direct  
contact with blood  
or body fluids that contain  
**visible** blood.

# **Bloodborne pathogens include**

1. Human immunodeficiency virus  
or HIV
2. Hepatitis B
3. Hepatitis C

Exposure to  
bloodborne pathogens  
can occur when  
a person comes in contact  
with  
infected blood.

**HIV** is a virus that attacks the immune system rendering the body unable to fight disease.

Symptoms include rapid weight loss, dry cough, recurring fever, fatigue, swollen lymph glands, diarrhea, unusual blemishes in mouth or on skin, pneumonia, etc.

There is no vaccine to prevent infection with HIV.

**There is no cure for HIV / AIDS.**



**Hepatitis B** is a virus that causes a disease of the liver.

Symptoms include jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, or no symptoms at all.

Most people recover from infection, but some people may become chronically infected. Infection leads to chronic liver disease and liver cancer.

Hepatitis B can survive in dried blood for at least a week.

A vaccine is available to prevent infection with hepatitis B.

**Hepatitis C** is a virus that causes a disease of the liver.

Symptoms include jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, or no symptoms at all.

85% of people infected with hepatitis C have chronic infections.

There is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C; however, newly approved antiviral drugs have been effective in some people who have contracted the infection.

# **Transmission of BBPs**

Hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV are most easily spread by direct contact with blood.

BBPs are also transmitted through unprotected sexual contact, sharing contaminated needles or from an infected mother to her baby.

## **Transmission of BBPs**

At work, you can be exposed to BBPs if you are exposed to blood on broken skin or the mucous membranes of your eyes, nose or mouth.

You can also become exposed if a contaminated sharp object punctures your skin.

## **Transmission of BBPs**

You cannot become infected with HIV, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C through casual contact, coughing or sneezing, a kiss on the cheek, a hug, an insect bite, a toilet seat, from drinking from water fountains or from eating food

# Protect yourself from exposure

Use universal precautions  
when providing first aid.

Under universal precautions, blood and certain body fluids of all people are considered potentially infectious for bloodborne pathogens.



Always use gloves when you anticipate touching blood or contaminated surfaces.

Use once and throw away.

Avoid touching other surfaces after touching blood.

Avoid touching the outside of the contaminated glove.

Discard used gloves.

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds. (Sing “Happy Birthday” to yourself 3 times while washing.) You may use a waterless antiseptic hand rub if your hands are not visibly soiled.

Disinfect any contaminated surfaces.

Pick up sharp objects or broken glass with a broom and dustpan to prevent an injury. Don't reach into or push trash down with hands or feet.

Hepatitis B vaccine is available to employees who may come in contact with blood on a regular basis as part of their job.

Report any blood or body fluid exposure to your supervisor or principal immediately.

Refer to the Scott County Public Schools Exposure Control Plan available in the building office for any additional information.

## **First Aid**

For minor cuts and scrapes, encourage the person to clean and bandage his own wound.

Take time to put on gloves first.

Dispose of any contaminated materials, clean the area and dispose of the gloves. Then wash your hands.

# **Athletic Injuries**

Existing cuts or scrapes should be properly bandaged prior to participation in a sporting event.

During an event, if an athlete is injured and bleeding, play should be stopped immediately, the wound cleaned and bandaged, and any blood soaked clothing replaced prior to returning to competition.

# Human Bites

If bitten by a student,  
the area should be washed  
immediately with  
soap and water.

Employees should immediately notify  
their principal or supervisor.

# Syringes and Needles

If a syringe and needle is found at any school site, do not break, bend or recap the needle.

Use a broom and dustpan to pick up the syringe and needle. Discard it in an appropriate puncture-resistant container. (Sharp Containers are located in the school clinic)

If accidentally stuck, wash the needle stick area with soap and water and immediately report the incident to your supervisor.



# Body Fluids

Our custodial staff has the equipment and cleaning solutions for cleaning spills. Allow them to clean and disinfect body fluid spills.

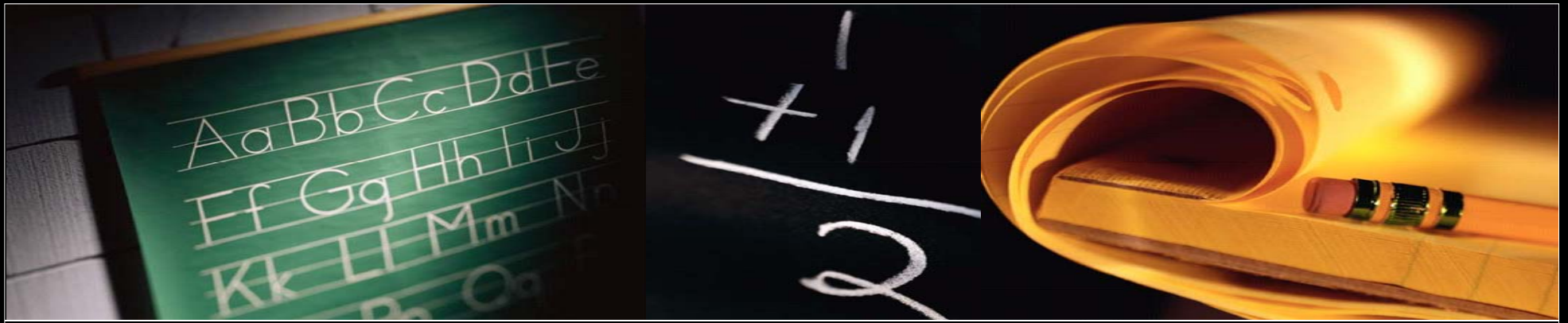
If you deal with body fluids as part of your job, remember to wear gloves when cleaning the area.

# Exposure

If you become exposed to blood or body fluids, immediately wash the area with soap and water.

If you are splashed in your eyes, flush them with large amounts of water.

Then immediately report the incident to your supervisor or principal.



The exposure to bloodborne pathogens at school is an everyday possibility. But protecting yourself from infection is as easy as remembering a catchy phrase.

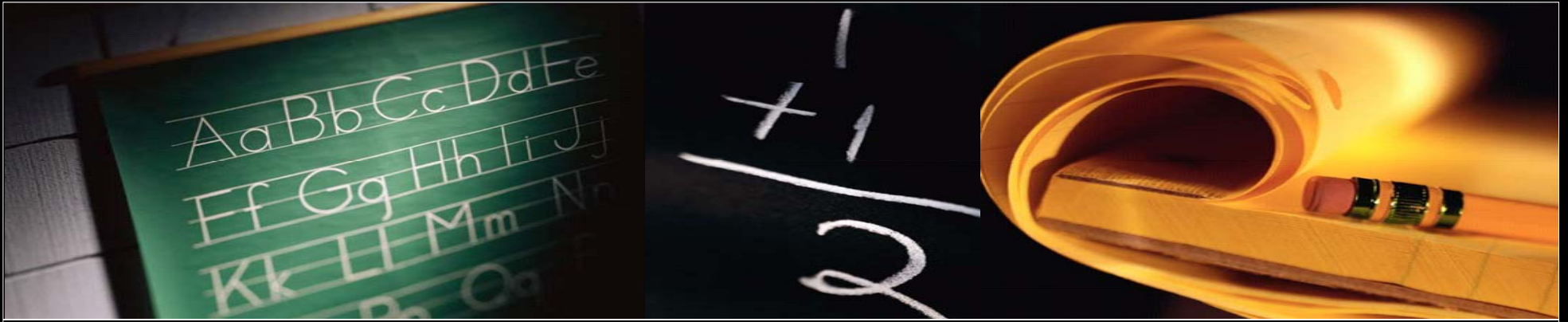
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# Spill Kit

A spill kit consists of two disposable gloves, a small towel and an antiseptic wipe for use when administering first aid. (each school may vary in contents)

All employees should have access to these kits.

Spill kits are available at every school. See your school administrator for location.



Produced by the

S.H.A.B.

And Nurse Coordinator

Employees must print and sign the  
Bloodborne Pathogen affidavit.

Please send a copy to your school's  
principal.

## Affidavit

I have reviewed and understand the  
Blood Born Pathogens Presentation  
which meets OSHA guidelines.

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(Signature)