



# Important Reminders and Tips about Bloodborne Pathogens

(supplemental information to the SCSD Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan)

## HEALTH OFFICE CONTACTS

High School Nurse: x2347  
High School Aide: x2348  
Elementary Nurse: x1345  
Elementary Aide: x1343

**What are Bloodborne Pathogens?** Pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood that can cause diseases in humans (like Hep B, Hep C, & HIV).

**What is a Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure?** Contact between an eye, nose, mouth, cut, mucus membrane, or any non-intact skin with another individual's blood or Other Potentially Infectious Material.

**What are considered as Other Potentially Infectious Material (OPIM), besides human blood?** Serum plasma, semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, and amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, and any body fluid visually contaminated or potentially contaminated with blood.

**What are NOT considered blood or OPIM?** Tears, sweat, saliva (when not performing dental procedures), non-bloody nasal secretions. Though it is best practice to limit contact and perform handwashing after contact, these fluids do not pose the same risk as those mentioned above.

**Universal Precautions:** an approach to infection control, to promote safe handling and treatment of all blood, blood products and OPIM as if they are infected with a bloodborne pathogen. With Universal Precautions, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is to be used with any anticipated contact with blood or OPIM's.

**Ways to minimize potential exposure:** PPE (includes gloves, masks, gowns, face shield, pocket mask, etc), good hand hygiene, and immediate removal or approved clean-up of contaminated surfaces.

*\*\*\* To minimize risk and exposure to other students, please do not send a student escort with a student who has any potential blood or OPIM. If an adult is unavailable, please call the Health Office or Main Office and someone will come to you. Utilize best Universal Precautions and available PPE in the meantime.\*\*\**

**If exposure to a mucus membrane (eye, nose, mouth):** rinse/irrigate area with large amounts of water, decontaminate any clothing or surfaces, and continue following school policy for the continued treatment and reporting of the exposure.