STANDARD PRECAUTIONS FOR PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In the school setting - as in any setting - it is not possible to know who may be a carrier of an infectious disease and what germs may be present. Persons with infections do not always have outward signs and often are not aware of being infected. However, you can utilize, "STANDARD PRECAUTIONS" while you are at school and in other situations that will help protect you from all infectious diseases. STANDARD PRECAUTIONS include the actions listed below:

- Wash your hands with soap and running water at regular times during your workday to lower the number of accumulated disease germs that may find entry into the body.

- Glove up immediately with disposable gloves before handling blood and bodily fluids from another person's body. This is an OSHA requirement while on the job. Wash hands when finished, making sure any blood or bodily wastes on your skin are completely washed off. If you have direct contact with blood at work, report that day to your supervisor and Benefits Management Office for Post-Exposure instructions.

- Avoid punctures with objects that may contain the blood of others.

- Clean room surfaces that have blood or bodily fluids with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and District approved disinfectant from Maintenance & Operations.

- Carefully dispose of trash that contains bodily fluids and sharp objects. Use special containers with plastic liners for the disposal of refuse that contains bodily spills, which include blood. Refuse which contains dripping blood must go in a red Biohazard plastic bag. For disposal of sharp objects, use containers that cannot be broken or penetrated. DO NOT BEND, BREAK, OR RECAP NEEDLES.

- Take a current First Aid and CPR class which includes information to protect the rescuer from infection and especially if your position calls for administration of first aid. Call Health Services for information and to register for a class.

- Consult with your physician or Health Services regarding the advisability of receiving the Hepatitis B Vaccine series. District employees may be eligible for no cost Hepatitis B vaccine from the District. If you are providing specialized health care procedures or giving first aid is your primary responsibility, working with mentally and/or physically disabled students, or if you are concerned that your current position may put you at potential risk of exposure, you may qualify for vaccine. Contact Human Resources or Health Services for more information and to determine if you should receive vaccine.

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS WILL PROTECT YOU FROM HIV INFECTION, HEPATITIS B AND MANY OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES. YOU DO NOT NEED TO KNOW WHICH PEOPLE AROUND YOU ARE INFECTED WITH HIV OR WHETHER THEY MAY BE CARRYING ANY OTHER DISEASES BECAUSE YOU ARE ALWAYS PREPARED. USING THE ABOVE PRECAUTIONS WILL RESULT IN FEWER ILLNESSES FOR YOU AND OTHERS AROUND YOU.

Maintain strict confidentiality of any medical information concerning students and co-workers, especially if the individual has either HIV infection or AIDS. Sharing information about someone who has HIV infection or AIDS without written permission from that individual is prohibited by law and punishable by fine in California.

NONWORK SETTING PRECAUTIONS FOR PROTECTION FROM HIV INFECTION AND HEPATITIS B: HIV infection, AIDS, and Hepatitis B are most commonly spread through sexual intercourse and by sharing needles in drug use. By abstaining from these activities, the major risk of exposure to these viruses is eliminated. For more information pertaining to AIDS/HIV or Hepatitis B, you may contact the Orange County Health Care Agency Health Services.