

February 13, 2004

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR
PREVENTING BLOODBORNE INFECTIONS IN SCHOOLS
SUPPLEMENT TO SUPTS. MEMO ON MODEL GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS**

Because the blood and certain body fluids (semen and vaginal secretions) of all persons must be considered potentially infectious for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B and C, and other organisms, it is important to follow precautions. Fortunately, in the case of schools, one need only be concerned about blood. Universal precautions do not apply to feces, nasal secretions, saliva, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, and vomitus unless they contain blood. Despite the extremely remote risk that exposure of skin to blood could result in infection (the unabraded skin is an excellent defense against bloodborne organisms), the following precautions should be adhered to without any exceptions:

1. Those involved in cleaning surfaces contaminated with blood or rendering first aid to bleeding children should wear disposable gloves and avoid exposure of open skin lesions and mucous membranes to blood.
2. Surfaces contaminated with blood should be promptly cleaned with household bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) using disposable towels and tissues.
3. Hands must be washed after gloves are removed.
4. If advertent contamination of the skin with blood were to occur, all that is required is thorough washing of the contaminated areas with soap and water.