Wound Care Protocol

Cuts or Superficial Abrasions

1) Determine cause of injury
2) Wear gloves and follow Standard Precautions
3) Cleanse thoroughly with soap and water. **Do not** use hydrogen peroxide at any strength, alcohol, other disinfectant **or antibiotic ointment**. (Note: wound wash may be used if soap and water are not readily available)
4) Apply dry sterile dressing (i.e. band-aid, etc.)
5) Notify parent if wound is substantial in size or depth
6) Refer to healthcare provider if laceration may require stitches: depending on size, depth and location or if student is due for tetanus booster (see below)

Laceration that May Require Sutures

1) Determine cause of injury
2) Wear gloves and follow Standard Precautions
3) Control bleeding by applying pressure with sterile gauze or other absorbent material
4) Once bleeding is controlled, cleanse area with running tap water, and if possible mild soap and water then rinse. Pat dry with a clean or sterile pad, avoiding anything that might stick to the wound. If bleeding is not controlled follow stop-the-bleed protocol and the steps below
5) **Do not** use hydrogen peroxide at any strength, alcohol, other disinfectant **or antibiotic ointment**. Determine tetanus status
6) Contact parent and refer to healthcare provider (inform parent that the student needs medical attention within 6 hours for a laceration that will require sutures)

Deep or Extensive Laceration and/or Severe Bleeding

1) Determine cause of injury
2) Have student lie down
3) Wear gloves and use Standard Precautions
4) Apply direct pressure by covering wound with gauze (preferable sterile) or other available absorbent material for at least 5 minutes; if blood seeps through apply a second dressing over the first but do not remove the first; do not remove an imbedded object
5) Call 9-1-1 if bleeding cannot be controlled within 5 to 10 minutes or student cannot be moved, and institute *Stop-the-Bleed* protocol (see attached or below)
6) Tape dressing in place or wrap with Coban, if able. If not controlled, apply *Quick Clot* or other hemostatic agent if available (see Stop-the-Bleed kit) to the site on top of originally used material, but do not remove original material
7) Do not move student unnecessarily
8) If no fracture is suspected, elevate the extremity above the level of the heart to help stop the bleeding
9) Check tetanus status and notify parents about injury and the call to 9-1-1

Adapted from the VDH's **First Aid Guide for Child Care and School Emergencies** (page 21)