

WHETHER IT'S FLYING AROUND
OR ON THE GROUND,
IF IT'S A BAT, DON'T TOUCH THAT!

Harlandale Independent School District
Student Support Services Dept.
School Health Services
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Bats in flight. Courtesy of: pearmagazineuk.blogspot.com

Mexican Free-Tailed Bat.
Courtesy of: www.ingarcade.com



MEXICAN FREE TAILED BAT

Most common to South Texas. On annual migration route from Mexico.



WARNINGS

City of San Antonio: Metropolitan Health District and Animal Care Services issues the warnings in March that bats migration season is starting due to a risk of possible exposure to RABIES.

- ALL Mammals, including bats, can contract and transmit rabies.
- Dogs, cats, opossums, and racoons are mammals as well.
- RABIES is a **deadly contagious infection** by direct contact through bite or simply touching the bat alive or dead.
- Procedures need to be discussed and staff needs to be trained on what to do if a bat is found.



BAT ON THE GROUND: NOW WHAT?

1. Clear the area surrounding the bat, and call Animal Control Services at 311.
2. An immediate **in-house investigation must be started to find out if anyone has touched or was bitten by the bat.** Even touching the bat can transfer the infection to the person.
 - It is important to tell the person that they are not in trouble for touching the bat. If they feel they are in trouble, they will most likely deny touching the bat.
 - It is better if they are truthful about touching the bat, because if needed treatment is not begun, **the disease is 100% fatal once the symptoms have started.**
3. **If dead, cover the bat in place with a box or a trash can to prevent anyone else from touching it until ACS arrives.**



Courtesy of Popular Science. www.popsci.com



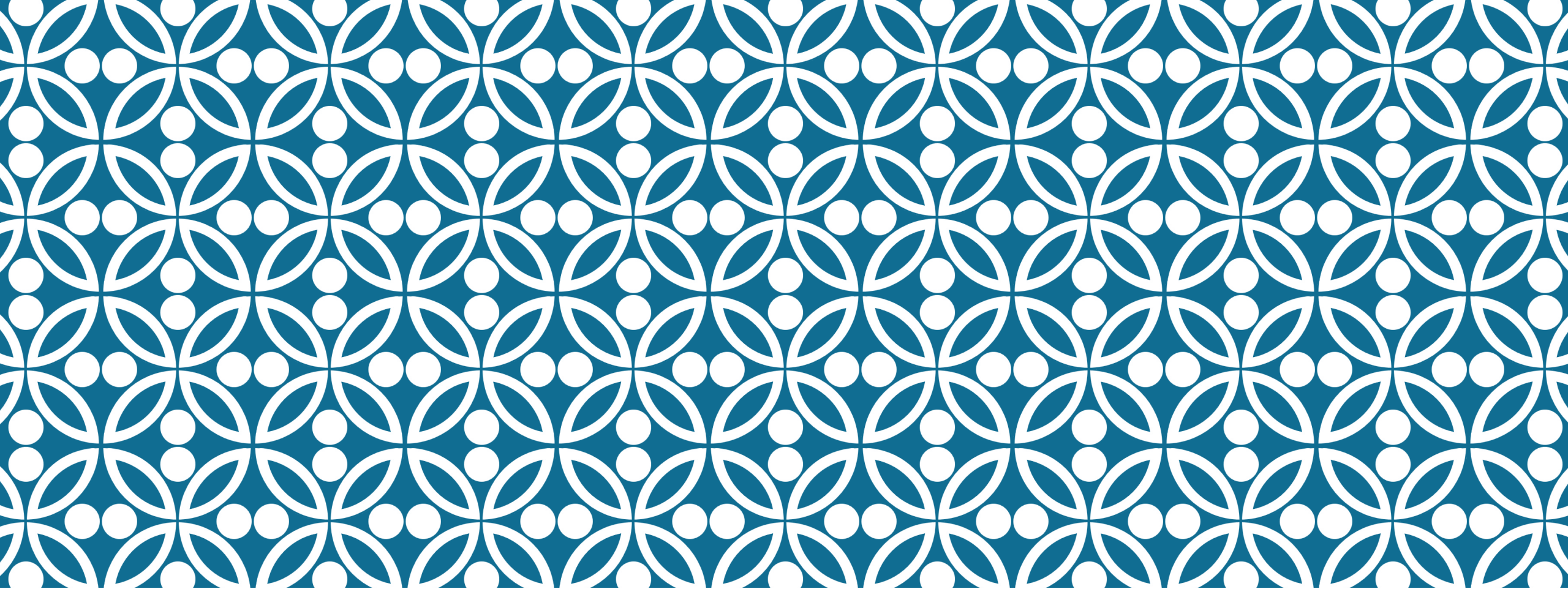
BAT ON THE GROUND: NOW WHAT?



Little Brown Bat.
Courtesy of: batsaboutourtown.com

4. ACS will arrive and take custody of the dead bat for testing.
5. **Information on persons who have had contact** with the bat will be vital to the investigation started by Metro Health for post-exposure care should the test come back as positive for RABIES.
6. The district is to facilitate contact with the families or staff members who are identified as needing post-exposure care or medications.
7. **All persons having contact with the bat will be recommended for the preventative post-exposure treatment if testing cannot rule out RABIES.**





LAWS

Texas Administrative Code



TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE



Courtesy of: www.inkspiredmusings.blogspot.com

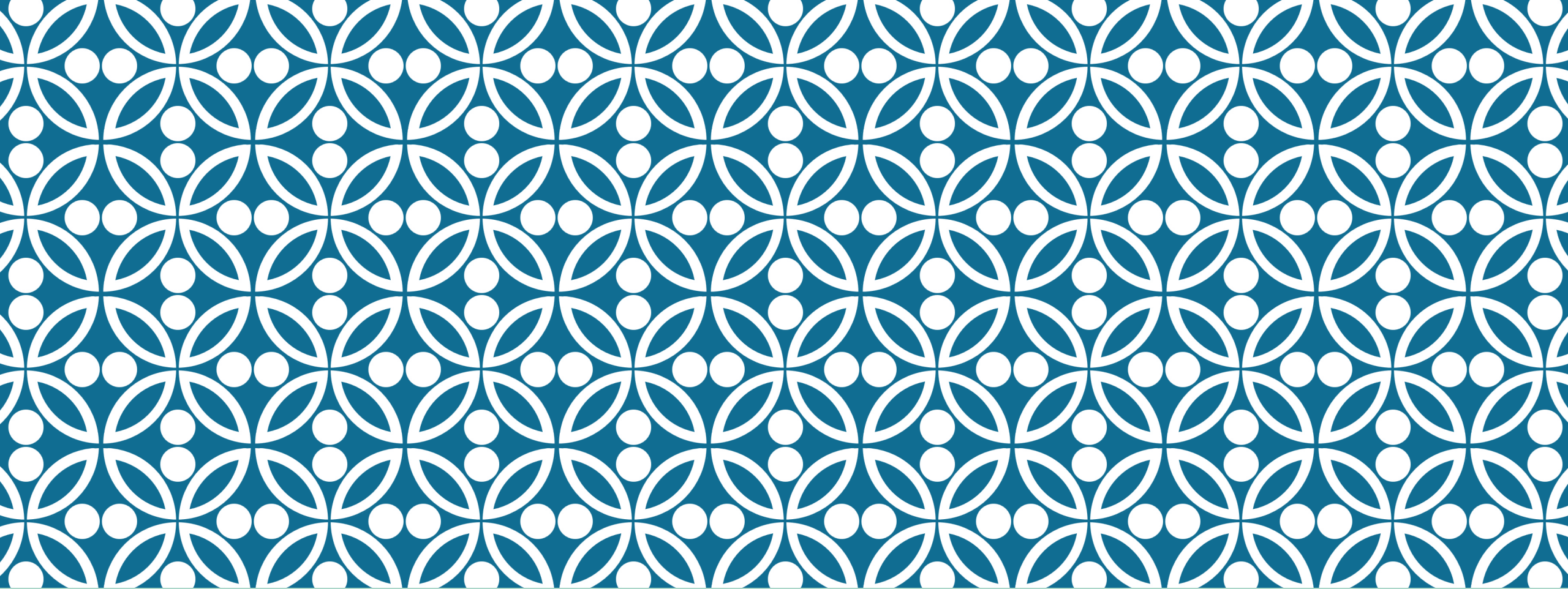
“Any person having knowledge of a potential rabies exposure to a human will report the incident to the local rabies control authority as soon as possible after the incident.”

Failure to report the incident of potential or actual exposure could result in citations and fines.

Texas law also requires the school district take steps after bats are found in a school facility:

- **If a bat colony is present, must be removed.**
- **Repairs must be made to prevent roosting in the future.**
- **The areas where bats roost must be disinfected.**
- **The area where a dead bat was found must be disinfected, too.**





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Info for Students...



DON'T DO IT!

It is tempting to pick it up because they look so unusual.

Don't do it! Leave bats alone!

Bats are helpful in nature, but they can spread **RABIES**.

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus.

This virus can be transferred by a bite or by touching the bat and then touching parts of your body like eyes, nose, mouth, or open wounds.



Courtesy of: www.cleanbreak.ca



REPORT IT!

Tell someone about the bat; a Teacher, Nurse, Administrator, or Police Officer right away if you or someone you know has touched a bat.

Don't throw it away!

Just get away from it!

Courtesy of Popular Science. www.popsci.com

