Confidentiality

As a facilitator of a health class it is important that we respect the confidentiality, privacy, and trust of individuals and their families. People, especially in small towns, may already feel apprehensive about sharing personal information with others. Without confidentiality, people are much less likely to participate in the sessions. Once a class gets a reputation for not respecting confidentiality, it will be very difficult for the class to get future participants.

* Examples of situations that are confidential:
  + If you see a class participant in public, you will not want to bring up the class. They may not want people to know they are taking a class about diabetes. Only bring up the class if they ask you a direct question about it. Do not mention the names of anyone taking the class to anyone outside of the class.
  + A class participant’s doctor runs into you at the grocery store. She is excited that one of her patients is attending the class. She wants to know how her patient is doing in the class. This is confidential information. You must tell her you are sorry but you are unable to discuss what happens in class or who attends as you have already told the class it will be confidential.

There is one situation where you should not keep confidentiality. If someone tells you they are planning to hurt themselves or others. Then you have a responsibility to report the information. Report this information to your supervisor immediately.