

PINK EYE (CONJUNCTIVITIS)

DATE OF EXPOSURE: _____

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Your child may have been exposed to Pink Eye. If your child develops any *of* the signs and symptoms below, please consult your child's doctor and notify your child's school.

School policy excludes children from attendance during acute infection with pus discharge.

Personal cleanliness and avoidance of sharing common towels and face cloths, toys and other belongings helps to prevent of Pink Eye. Careful handwashing after caring for each child is essential. Children with Bacterial Conjunctivitis must be on antibiotics for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. Children with viral or other types of conjunctivitis may return to school with a note from a physician.

CAUSATIVE AGENT: May be a bacterial or viral infection, or may be due to allergy, contact with irritants (e.g. chlorine from swimming pool), or other causes.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS: Redness and swelling of the white of the eye or inside of eyelids of one or both eyes. May have a yellow discharge (bacterial or viral) or clear or no discharge (allergic or contact). Sometimes there will be crustiness along the edges of the eyelids upon awakening. Itching and/or pain may be present.

INCUBATION PERIOD: Irregular, usually 1 to 4 days.

PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY: Bacterial and viral infections are highly communicable during the period of the discharge.

METHOD OF TRANSMISSION: Contact with discharges from the infected person, through contaminated fingers, clothing, or other articles.

For more information, contact your health care provider, your School Nurse, the Marin County Health Department, or http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/eye/conjunctivitis_p2.html