Date

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child may have recently been exposed to **conjunctivitis**, commonly called **pinkeye**. Pinkeye is common among children and is usually caused by a virus or bacteria but may be caused by allergies or some other eye irritant. Pinkeye is an inflammation of the thin tissue covering the white part of the eye and the inside of the eyelids.

**What are the symptoms of pinkeye?**

Symptoms may include redness, itching and burning of the eyes, watering or discharge from the eyes, eyelids that stick together and swollen eyelids. It may affect one or both eyes.

**How is pinkeye spread?**

Pinkeye caused by a virus or bacteria can spread when hands touch the uninfected eye after touching the infected eye. Touching surfaces contaminated by the eye discharge then touching the eyes can also cause infection. Touching one’s eye with unwashed hands is a common way for viruses and bacteria to enter the eye.

**How is pinkeye diagnosed and treated?**

A healthcare provider will diagnosis of pinkeye by assessing the infected eye(s). Bacterial conjunctivitis (e.g., redness and white or yellow discharge) is treated with antibiotic eye drops. Viral conjunctivitis (e.g., clear, watery eye discharge without eye pain or redness) is not treated with antibiotics but with cool, wet compresses.

**How do you control the spread?**

* Careful and thorough handwashing before and after touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.
* Disinfect objects that are commonly touched by hands or faces such as table, doorknobs, telephones, and toys.
* People with white or yellow discharge should see their healthcare provider for assessment before returning to school.

**How do I get more information?**

For more information about pinkeye, contact your healthcare provider.