

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE NOTIFICATION LETTER

CONJUNCTIVITIS (“PINK EYE”)

TO: Parent/Guardian

FROM: School Nurse

We have had a case of conjunctivitis (pink eye) reported at Notre Dame Elementary and Middle Schools. Please read the information below. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school clinic at 440. 279.1130

INFO REGARDING PINK EYE

Symptoms of “pink eye” are redness, burning, itching of eye, change in vision and/or sensitivity to light. There may be a clear watery drainage or yellow-green discharge. Eyelids may be red and swollen. It is passed by direct or indirect contact. The incubation period for the bacterial type is 24-72 hours. With **bacterial conjunctivitis**, the eye will have yellow-green (thin or thick) mucus discharge. Eyelids may be stuck together upon awakening. There may be itching or burning, red or swollen eyelids. The viral type of conjunctivitis is 24-48 hours. With **viral conjunctivitis**, the eye may have a thinner watery or mucus discharge. There also may be some burning or itching, and red or swollen eyelids. The viral type may resolve on its own.

This condition is readily communicable in the classroom. It is spread by coming into contact with eye discharge, droplets in the air from coughing or sneezing from a person with a respiratory infection, touching one’s eyes with contaminated hands/fingers. **It can only be diagnosed by a physician.** The student is to be excluded from school until the discharge from the eye has ceased and/or has been on eye drops or ointment for 24 hours (for the bacterial type) that have been prescribed by the doctor per guidelines from the Ohio Board of Health.

People with conjunctivitis should:

Wash their hands after touching or wiping their eyes to help reduce contamination

Avoid touching other people until handwashing first

Discard or wash items that touch their eyes

Do not share makeup or other items that are in contact with the eyes (washcloths, towels, tissues)

Always cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing

Always consult with physician for proper diagnosis and treatment

If your child’s eyes are stuck together due to thick eye drainage in the morning, please keep him/her at home and consult your physician. Also, please notify the school if diagnosed with conjunctivitis so we may observe students for other cases that may occur.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Elizabeth Bacnik, School Nurse