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## **Pink Eye at School**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We regret to inform you that we have received a few reported cases of pink eye (acute contagious conjunctivitis) at your child's school.

Pink eye is an inflammation of the mucous lining of the lids and eyeball. The blood vessels dilate and the tissues become inflamed. Itching, burning and pus formation are other symptoms. The secretions may cause the eyelids to seal together overnight. Pink eye may strike only one eye, but usually both are involved. Periodic rubbing of the eyes increase the possibility of infection. The symptoms will usually appear 24 to 72 hours after exposure.

If you suspect that your child has pink eye, he or she must not attend school until treated.

This infection is highly communicable and can spread rapidly through a family and through a school. The germ is found in the discharge from the eyes, and it is acquired through contact with an infected person, or with articles such as pencils, handkerchiefs, table tops and towels that have been contaminated by this discharge.

Prompt medical treatment can quickly render your child noninfectious and a cure is relatively easy. The most common treatment is the local application of an antibiotic ointment or drops. These medications can be obtained from a health care provider.

Personal cleanliness is important as a preventive measure against pink eye. Please encourage your child to wash their hands frequently and keep hands away from eyes.

If you have any questions, you may contact your child's school office.