



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

PINKEYE (CONJUNCTIVITIS)

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Pinkeye has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described below, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County School Health Program at 904-253-1580.

What is Pinkeye?

- Commonly called conjunctivitis
- Bacterial or viral infection (contagious)
These infections usually produce white or yellowish pus that may cause the eyelids to stick together in the morning
- The discharge in allergic pinkeye is usually clear and watery

How is Pinkeye spread?

- Hands contaminated with nasal secretions or eye discharge
- Use of contaminated towels or eye makeup

How can Pinkeye be prevented?

- Good and thorough hand washing and hygiene practices
- Properly dispose of paper tissues used for wiping nose or eyes
- Remove any shared items, such as towels. You can use disposable paper towels
- Children with pinkeye should not attend daycare or school until they have been seen by a healthcare provider

Implications for school

- Exclude students or staff who have been diagnosed with the disease
- May return after eyes have cleared or with a note from a healthcare provider

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics:
<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>