



## ***Pinkeye (Conjunctivitis)***

Date:

Dear Parent:

A child at day care has been diagnosed with ***Pinkeye (Conjunctivitis)***.

Conjunctivitis means that the “whites of the eyes” have become red due to an irritation. Common symptoms include itching, irritation, a scratchy feeling in one or both eyes, and a discharge that may cause the eyelids stick together in the morning.

Chemicals, allergies or direct contact from discharge from the eyes of infected persons can cause conjunctivitis. Discharges from the eye(s) on fingers, towels, washcloths and handkerchiefs may spread the infection. Pinkeye is contagious if it is caused by certain viral or bacterial organisms.

Prevention of Pinkeye can be helped by excluding infected children from childcare or school during the active stage of infection and by thorough hand washing at all times after wiping noses or faces.

Do not use a common washcloth, handkerchief, drying towel, blankets or pillows for the children.

Children may return to day care 24 hours after they start the antibiotic treatment.

If your child develops any of the symptoms of conjunctivitis, keep him/her at home and consult your doctor for diagnosis and treatment. Bacterial and viral conjunctivitis look the same, but the doctor can tell the difference and properly treat the infection.

If you have any questions, please call your Health District.