

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There have been several cases of eye infections reported in your child's classroom. The students that have been diagnosed have been identified as having pink eye. Please review the following information regarding the common signs and symptoms of pink eye and the guidelines for school attendance:

- Pink, watery, itchy eyes, and crusted eyelids or lashes are common signs of conjunctivitis (pink eye). The condition is an inflammation of the clear membrane over the white part of the eye, the conjunctiva. Pink eye can be caused by allergies, viruses, bacteria, and chemical irritants. Bacterial and viral conjunctivitis are both highly contagious.
- One of the most common causes of pink eye in children is bacterial conjunctivitis with eye redness and yellow or green discharge. It may start in one eye and quickly spread to the other. Treatment is usually with antibiotic eye drops. If your child is diagnosed with bacterial pink eye, they may return to school 24 hours after starting the prescribed medication.
- Viral conjunctivitis, in addition to redness, includes symptoms of itching and a clear or white discharge. Your child may also have other viral symptoms such as a runny nose, cough, or sore throat. Your child may need to be kept home for several days until symptoms improve.
- **It is important to consult your child's health care provider to determine the cause of their symptoms and what is needed for treatment. Unless the following precautions are taken, this condition may spread to the other eye or to other people. If your child was sent home with symptoms of bacterial or viral infections, you will need to either have your child evaluated and treated by their physician or keep them home until the symptoms are gone.**
- Remember to:
 - Wash your hands often and well.
 - Keep your hands away from your eyes.
 - Do not share washcloths, towels, and pillowcases with others.
 - Do not use other people's eye make-up.

Thank you for taking the necessary precautions to keep our student's safe. Please call me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Gina Boyd, R.N.
School Nurse
Vickery Elementary
972-350-2308