Sample Conjunctivitis/Pink Eye Parent Notification Letter

Dear Parent:

There have been some reported cases of “pink eye” in your child’s classroom. “Pink Eye” or conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the thin, transparent outer layer of the eyeball and the inner surface of the eyelids. The inflammation causes redness, tearing and occasionally formation of pus. The most common causes are bacteria, viruses, and allergies. Bacterial and viral conjunctivitis is contagious.

Treatment for bacterial conjunctivitis usually consists of antibiotic eye drops or ointments. Antibiotics will not help if conjunctivitis is caused by a virus. Therefore, some children with mild pink eye may be told by their physician that no treatment is necessary, and the condition will go away by itself in a few days. Allergic conjunctivitis can be relieved, not cured, by certain non-antibiotic eye drops.

How to differentiate the cause:

Allergic: Discharge remains watery without pus formation.

Bacterial: Usually more severe with pus formation and more crust on eyelids. Requires treatment.

Viral: Usually less severe, often no pus. Runs a 3-5 day course and goes away.

If your child does have symptoms of conjunctivitis and/or is treated by a physician for conjunctivitis, please notify the school.

Please note: Though we generally do not exclude students for conjunctivitis some children may be excluded from school if they have symptoms of conjunctivitis. This is because viral and bacterial conjunctivitis is contagious, and these children are either of an age or ability that prevents them from following proper precautions not to spread the infection to other children and staff. These children must remain home until seen by a medical provider and/or on treatment for 12 hours.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Preventions: Conjunctivitis webpage.: <https://www.cdc.gov/conjunctivitis/index.html>

Wisconsin Bureau of Communicable Diseases Wisconsin [Childhood Communicable Diseases Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p44397a.pdf). <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p44397a.pdf>