

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
HEALTH SERVICES**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CARE

CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE)

Student _____ Date _____

Student Presents the Following: _____

Notify your health care provider if you observe the following signs of infection:

pink or red color where the eye should be white
an itchy and/or irritated eye that is difficult to not touch
discharge from the eye - may cause the eyelashes to be matted together in the morning

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the eye. When caused by a viral or bacterial infection it is sometimes called Infectious Conjunctivitis. Other types of conjunctivitis are caused by allergies or chemicals i.e. medications, gas fumes, chlorine from swimming pools, etc.

Infectious Conjunctivitis is contagious. It is spread when the secretions from the infected eye enter a non-infected eye. This can happen by directly touching the infected eye and then touching a non-infected eye. It can also happen when a person rubs their infected eye, touches an item i.e. a doorknob or a toy and then another person touches the same doorknob or toy and then touches their uninfected eye.

Infectious conjunctivitis is of concern in the school environment. It is easily transmitted in a classroom setting.

If your child is suspected of having infectious conjunctivitis: encourage frequent handwashing, explain the importance of not touching their eyes and do not allow others to use their washcloths and towels. Your child will be referred to his/her health care provider and excluded from school until the infection has cleared, until they have received 24 hours of appropriate antibiotic treatment or until you have written clearance from your health care provider.

Children suspected of having conjunctivitis related to allergies or other non-infectious causes will not be excluded from school.

As with any medical situation, contact your medical provider if you are unsure.

RN School Nurse