



FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
520 Fifth Ave. Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 (907) 452-2000

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Date: _____

Dear Parent or Guardian,

There have been several cases of pink eye in your child's classroom and your child may have been exposed.

What is conjunctivitis?

Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is a common, mild infection of the eye that is contagious. It can be caused by a bacterial or viral infection. A child with pink eye will have discomfort, a scratchy feeling, itching, or pain in the eye. The white of the eye may appear pink or red. The child's eye will have a discharge.

How is it spread?

The virus or bacteria is spread by contact with secretions from the eye, nasal mucus, and saliva. It can spread through droplets coughed or sneezed into the air, and secretions on hands, tissues and surfaces.

Is there treatment?

Yes. Treatment depends on whether the infection is bacterial, viral, or allergic. Antibiotic drops or ointment are prescribed for bacterial conjunctivitis. If you suspect your child has pink eye, please contact your health care provider for diagnosis.

How long should children be out of school?

The child should be kept home until there is no drainage from the eyes. If antibiotics were prescribed the child may not return until 24 hours from the beginning of treatment and there is no drainage.

How can the spread be prevented?

Teaching and encouraging good hand washing technique is the best way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases of all kinds. Encourage children to not rub their eyes. Be sure that the child washes hands after touching eyes or blowing nose.

Thank you for giving this your attention.