

**LAKE TRAVIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONJUNCTIVIS NOTIFICATION**

Dear Parents:

Recently there have been confirmed cases of conjunctivitis (pink eye) in your child's class. This letter is to inform you about what it is, what to look for, and what to do if you suspect your child has conjunctivitis.

Conjunctivitis is an irritation of the membrane that lines the inside of the eyelid and covers the whites of the eyes. Conjunctivitis can be caused by bacterial or viral infection, or it can be the result of a chemical or allergic reaction in the eye.

Signs and Symptoms:

- a. redness of the eye (bloodshot appearance), usually with itchiness or irritation
- b. swelling, watering, and severe itching of the eye
- c. redness, itching, and a thick yellowish discharge that can cause a child's eyelids to stick together after sleeping
- d. red itchy eyes with a generally clear to white discharge

Treatment:

- a. Call your physician; he/she will determine the best treatment for your child.
- b. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ON THE PRESCRIPTION EVEN IF THE SYMPTOMS ARE NO LONGER EVIDENT.

Readmission to School:

- a. The student may return to school when the symptoms have subsided OR
- b. The student may return to school with a note from the doctor stating that the child is no longer contagious.

Prevention:

Because there are so many possible causes of pink eye, there is no single way to prevent conjunctivitis.

- a. The best way to prevent infections of the eye is to be sure that children wash their hands well and frequently.
- b. An infected child should not share washcloths, towels, or pillowcases with anyone else.
- c. Where possible, disinfect articles that may have been contaminated.
- d. Dispose of used tissues properly.
- e. Try to keep hands away from eyes.