



INDIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

October 16, 2018

Dear Parents,

There has been an increase in the number cases of Pink Eye here at Indian Community School. Several of these cases have been resistant to some antibiotic treatments, and have required a second dose of antibiotics to treat the infection. I want to give parents of students in our school notification of possible cases, as well as information about the symptoms and ICS policy regarding communicable disease such as pink eye.

Indian Community School Illness Policy States:

Pink eye-if drainage/gunk in eye present or discomfort prevents learning. The Student should stay home for 24 hours after eye drops started

Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is an inflammation of the thin, clear membrane that covers the white of the eye and the inside surface of the eyelids. Conjunctivitis, commonly known as "pink eye" is most often caused by a virus but can also be caused by a bacterial infection, allergies, and chemical irritation.

Anyone can get conjunctivitis. It can spread fairly easily from person to person. People commonly get conjunctivitis by coming into contact with tears or other eye discharges of an infected person, and then touching their own eyes. Hands, towels, and washcloths, can spread conjunctivitis. Symptoms normally appear a few days after contact with an infected person or an object contaminated with the virus.

Individuals with conjunctivitis may be contagious as long as symptoms persist or the eyes appears abnormal. Risk of conjunctivitis increases with the use of contact lenses, and touching/ rubbing the eyes without handwashing first.

Symptoms of conjunctivitis may include the following:

- Eye redness and irritation, sensitivity to bright light, itchiness or a gritty sensation in the eye, swollen eyelids, tearing and discharge.
- Discharge may make the eyelids and eyelashes stick together or have crusty debris, especially in the morning.
- Viral conjunctivitis often begins with fairly sudden onset of pain or the feeling of dust in the eye. Infection may begin in only one eye but often spreads to involve both.

Your cooperation in helping us to minimize the spread of conjunctivitis is greatly appreciated. Please do not send your child to school if they are showing signs of an infection. If your child is going to miss school, please notify the school office so their attendance can be recorded.

Please contact me if there are any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Shannon Stapleton
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