



*LAKE LAND JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272*

*15506 N. Washington Street P.O. Box 39*

*Rathdrum, Idaho 83858*

*Phone: 208.687.0431 Fax: 208.687.1884 Web: lakeland272.org*

## **Communicable Disease Fact Sheet**

### **CONJUNCTIVITIS**

**(Pinkeye)**

#### **What is Conjunctivitis?**

- ◆ Pinkeye is an inflammation of the conjunctiva of the eye caused by bacteria or viruses.
- ◆ it also can occur from allergies, irritation or chemical exposure.

#### **Symptoms:**

- ◆ the first symptom is often discomfort in the eye that is not relieved by rubbing or the sensation of something that feels like sand in the eye.
- ◆ this is followed by redness and inflammation.
- ◆ after a day or so a white, yellow, or green discharge from eyes may be present.
- ◆ often upon waking in the morning, the eye is sealed shut with crusty discharge.

#### **How is it spread?**

- ◆ pinkeye is very easily spread from one student to another and is considered highly contagious.

#### **Treatment:**

- ◆ Children with pinkeye need to see a doctor for evaluation and treatment with prescription antibiotic drops for 7-10 days.

#### **Prevention:**

- ◆ Hand washing is the most effective method of prevention.
- ◆ do not share washcloths and towels with someone who has pinkeye.

#### **Exclusion from school:**

- ◆ Students with pinkeye must be excluded from school until seen by a physician.
- ◆ Student may return to school with a note from the physician and after they have been using the prescription antibiotic drops for 24 hours. The student still needs to complete the entire course of treatment as prescribed by the health care provider.

#### **More information:**

- ◆ Call your school nurse at your child's school or at the district office, 687-0431.
- ◆ Call your health care provider.
- ◆ Call Panhandle Health District at 667-3481.