North Monterey County Unified School District

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PINWORMS (ENTEROBIASIS) - FACT SHEET

Persons suspected of having Pinworms are referred to a physician for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.

Definition and Cause:
Pinworms are white, threadlike worms that live in the large intestine, and can cause itching around the anal and/or vaginal regions. The name of the work is a parasite known as *Enterobius Vamicularis*. Eggs develop into adult worms in the intestines, and new eggs are laid around the anus. Pinworms are relatively common and not dangerous.

Transmission:
Pinworms can be transmitted directly by the transfer of infective eggs by hand (after touching anus) to mouth. They can be transmitted indirectly through articles contaminated with eggs. Once ingested, symptoms will occur after 1 to 2 months.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Anal itching and scratching (especially at night), which may appear to be restlessness or irritability.
- Vaginal irritation and sometimes urinary frequency in females

Prevention:

- Hand washing after defecation (toileting, diapering), and before eating or preparing food.
- Wash toys.
- Discourage habits of nail biting and scratching bare anal area
- Treatment with oral medication.

Treatment:
Oral medications commonly used are Mebendazole (*Ovex, Vermox, Antiox, Pripsen*), Albendazole (*Albenza, Eskazole, or Zentel*) or the nonprescription medicine Pyrantel pamoate (*Pin-X*). In many cases entire family may require treatment. Bathing the child in the morning can remove a large proportion of eggs that are laid at night.

Home Management:

- Contact your child's physician if your child has intense itching around the anal or vaginal area.
- Promote good hand washing technique.
- Wash your child's hands after using the toilet, and before hands are involved with putting something in the mouth.
- Clean and sanitize surfaces used for eating, toileting, hand washing, food preparation and diapering.
- Bathing your child in the morning removes many of the eggs laid during the night.
- Frequent change of underwear, bedclothes, and bed sheets assist in decreasing egg contamination.
- Wash toys frequently.
- Parent should launder sheets, towels, underclothes and sleeping garments.
- Staying home because of a diagnosis of pinworms is not necessary.