

Dear Parents / Guardians,

A diagnosis of Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) has been reported for a student in your child's classroom.

Pink Eye is an infection /inflammation of the lining of the eyelid and the sclera (the white part of the eye) caused by a bacteria, a virus, or allergens. Pink Eye caused by allergens does not spread from one person to another however, bacterial and viral Pink Eye is highly contagious.

Any student suspicious of having pink eye will visit the Nurse's office for evaluation. If the student exhibits any of the signs or symptoms below, they will be required to have an evaluation by a physician or eye doctor. Most Pink Eye infections will need an eye drop Rx treatment.

Signs and symptoms of pink eye include:

- Redness or swelling of the white of the eye or inside the eyelids
- White, yellow or greenish drainage from the eye
- Crusting on the eye upon awakening; may even be matted shut
- Increased amount of tears
- Itching, burning, or gritty feeling in the eyes
- Increased sensitivity to light

Treatment of pink eye:

- Treatment varies depending on the cause. If bacterial conjunctivitis is diagnosed, your doctor will prescribe antibiotic drops or ointment. Use as prescribed.
- If your child will need drops or ointment during school hours, contact your building nurse for the appropriate medication authorization form.
- Use a warm, damp washcloth to clear eyes that are sealed due to drainage or for symptom relief. Use a new washcloth every time.

Prevention of the spread of Pink Eye:

- Encourage student to keep hands away from the eyes
- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently , especially after applying medicine
- Use a new tissue to wipe drainage every time it is needed
- Change and wash pillow case / linens daily

Students are allowed to return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun or with a note from the physician or eye doctor stating that he/she is not contagious.

Thank you for your part in keeping our Yorkville students healthy.