

## EXPOSURE NOTICE\* - PINK EYE (CONJUNCTIVITIS)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child may have been exposed to PINK EYE.

### **General information:**

Pink eye is condition that causes inflammation of the eye. It can be caused by bacteria, viruses, or allergens, or if something gets in the eye (such as chemicals or dirt). Viral and bacterial conjunctivitis are very contagious, spreading easily to others.

### **What are the symptoms?**

One or both eyes may have:

- Pink or red color in the white of the eye
- Swelling of the conjunctiva (the tissue that lines the white part of the eye and inside the eyelid) and/or eyelids
- Itching, irritation, and/or burning feeling in the eye
- Eye drainage (clear, thick white, yellow or green), crusting of eyelids or lashes, especially in the morning

### **What do I need to do?**

- Watch your child for signs and symptoms of the disease
- If your child develops symptoms, please call your healthcare provider, inform the school, and keep your child home. *Please follow your health care provider's instructions for home care and to prevent the spread of disease to others.*

*Please talk to your Family Service Worker if you do not have a regular healthcare provider or health insurance.*

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PINKEYE**

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

Pink eye is easily spread by hands that have touched infected eyes, drainage from the eyes, or by touching contaminated items (e.g. washcloths, pillowcases, doorknobs).

### **How do I prevent this disease?**

- Avoid touching your eyes
- Wash hands often
- Do not share towels or eye make-up
- Disinfect objects frequently touched

### **When can someone with pink eye return to school/childcare?**

Children with symptoms of pink eye are to be excluded from school until they have clearance from a healthcare provider. Those that have infectious pink eye may return to school with a doctor's clearance and, if prescribed, completion of 24 hours of antibiotics.