

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (15) in DH SEB CD/8/9/1

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電 話 TEL.:

傳 真 FAX No.:

31 August 2007

To: Principals / Persons-in-charge,

Prevention of Acute Conjunctivitis (Red-eye Syndrome)

In view of the recent outbreak of acute conjunctivitis reported in institution, I would like to urge your vigilance against outbreaks of the disease in your institution/organization.

Acute conjunctivitis is a contagious condition mostly caused by viruses and bacteria. The symptoms are irritation, tearing, pain and redness of the eyes. Summer is usual peak seasons in institutional settings. Transmission may occur by contact with discharge from the eye or upper respiratory tract of infected people, from contaminated fingers, clothing and other articles, including sharing of eye makeup applicators, and eye medications. Children under 5 are most often affected. Acute conjunctivitis is usually a self-limiting condition with recovery in one to two weeks time given proper treatment. Patients who develop symptoms are advised to seek prompt medical attention and avoid going to swimming pools. Strict personal hygiene is important to prevent outbreaks.

For prevention of acute conjunctivitis, I would recommend you to take the following steps:

1. Maintain good communication with parents and help them understand the need to keep children at home when they develop symptoms of acute conjunctivitis to prevent infecting other children.
2. Close supervision of children to maintain personal hygiene practices. Avoid sharing towels and toilet articles; minimize hand-to-eye contact; wash hands thoroughly before and after contact with eyes; avoid sharing eye droppers, eye medicines, eye make-up and other items that may come into contact with the eyes..
3. Advise staff to screen for children with red eyes before they enter the centre/kindergarten. The sick children should preferably be taken home by their parents. However, if circumstances do not allow, they should be placed in areas separated from other children to prevent further transmission

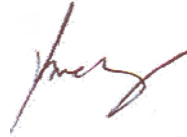


4. Follow the Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Child Care Centres, Kindergartens, and Schools to keep the environment of the centre/kindergarten clean and hygienic, especially concerning cleansing of toys and toilets and management of excreta and body fluids.

If you notice any increase in the number of children suffering from acute conjunctivitis please inform the Central Notification Office of CHP as early as possible at Fax: 2477 2770 or Tel: 2477 2772. CHP will give advice on the management of such cases and take appropriate control measures.

For more information, please visit the website of CHP at http://www.chp.gov.hk/content.asp?lang=en&info_id=18&id=24&pid=9 and refer to the Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Child Care Centres, Kindergartens, and Schools which is available at: <http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/Guid-Booklet-eng.pdf>

Yours sincerely,



(Dr SK CHUANG)

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