

County of Santa Clara
Public Health Department



Communicable Disease Prevention and Control
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EXPOSURE NOTICE: PINWORMS

Date Issued: _____

Dear Parent, Legal Guardian, or Staff,

Students and staff may have been recently exposed to **pinworms**. We are providing the information below so you know what steps you can take to protect yourself and others. This information does not replace talking with your doctor if you become sick. ***If you or your child have symptoms, please seek diagnosis and treatment from a healthcare provider as soon as possible.***

PINWORMS: Small, thin, white worms that live in the colon and rectum and cause itching. Pinworms are about the length of a staple.

What are the symptoms? Itching and irritation around the anal and genital area which can lead to difficulty sleeping and restlessness.

How is it spread? Transfer of pinworm eggs from anus to mouth, either directly (by hands) or indirectly, through contact with contaminated items like food, clothing, bedding, and/or toys. Pinworms can survive for 2 to 3 weeks on clothing or other objects.

When do symptoms start? 1 to 2 months or longer after exposure to an infected person or contaminated items.

Do staff or children need to stay home if symptoms develop? No. If symptoms develop, seek medical care. Treatment with an oral medication (prescription or over-the-counter) is necessary. Your child should stay home if unable to participate in group activities.

When can staff or children return to work, school, or childcare? The child or staff member can return when they are fully able to participate in group activities and they meet the school or childcare's readmission criteria.

For additional information, visit [cdc.gov/parasites/pinworm](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/pinworm).