



7<sup>th</sup> of November 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

It has been reported to the college that a student on the Junior Campus has been in contact with a member of the public that had contracted pin worms during the last week of October. This letter is to advise you to monitor your child for symptoms.

### **Incubation period**

The eggs can survive on surfaces or objects (such as furniture, kitchen surfaces and toothbrushes) for up to 2 weeks in the right conditions and can infect other people if transferred to the mouth or food. Household pets cannot be infected with pinworms or pass them on to humans.

### **Mode of transmission of pinworm (threadworm)**

Pinworms are transmitted by direct transfer of infected eggs by hand from the anus to the mouth of the same or another person. They can also be transmitted indirectly through bedding, clothing, food or other articles. Spread is facilitated by overcrowding.

### **Period of communicability of pinworm (threadworm) infection**

Communicability continues as long as the eggs are being discharged onto the perianal area. The eggs can survive for several days in the right conditions. Reinfection from contaminated hands is common.

### **Symptoms of pinworm**

Pinworm infections often produce no symptoms but, when they occur, symptoms can include:

- itchy bottom, especially at night
- reduced appetite
- feeling mildly unwell
- inflammation of the vagina
- adult worms can sometimes be seen in the faeces, and eggs may be seen clinging to the skin around the anus
- irritability and behavioural changes.

### **Preventing another pinworm infection**

Suggestions to prevent another infection during treatment include:

- All family members should wash their hands and nails thoroughly with soap and water, particularly after going to the toilet, after changing nappies, before preparing food and before eating food.
- Discourage scratching of the bottom and nail biting.
- Keep fingernails short.
- Daily bathing and showering.
- Wash all sheets, bed linen, pyjamas, and sleepwear in hot water to kill any pinworm eggs.
- Clean toilet seats and potties regularly with disinfectant (remember to store the disinfectant out of reach of children).



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- All family members should take the medication, regardless of whether they are experiencing symptoms.

### **How are worms diagnosed?**

Threadworms can be diagnosed by a 'sticky tape test' available from your doctor. The test detects threadworm eggs that are deposited around the anus at night. It involves using special sticky tape to take a sample first thing in the morning. The sticky tape is pressed onto the area around the anus, causing any threadworm eggs present to stick to the tape. The doctor or a laboratory will examine the tape under the microscope to look for the eggs.

More information about exclusion requirements can be found by searching for "school exclusion table" at [www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)

Kind regards,

Mr Stuart Harrison  
Deputy Principal- Head of Glenroy Campus