**LETTER TO PARENTS**

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|  **Concerning letters to parents:*** No letters should be sent if diagnosis has not been confirmed.
* No letters should be sent without prior consent of the CLSC nurse.
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daycare: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** **Oxyuriasis**

Dear parents,

Cases of oxyuriasis have been recently diagnosed at the daycare. Oxyuriasis is an intestinal infection caused by a pinworm. This infection is benign and symptoms usually include anal itching, especially at nighttime. It can also cause irritability or agitated sleep.

Even if infected, your child can continue to attend daycare.

You should observe the area of your child’s anus two or three hours after the child has fallen asleep. If you see worms, consult a doctor or pharmacist to obtain treatment, which will also be administered to all the other members of the family. Read the attached information sheet.

If you do not see worms but your child has anal itching, you should see a doctor and bring this letter with you. The doctor may order medical tests.

Please inform the daycare if oxyuriasis is diagnosed.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Please print)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Encl: Information sheet

**Oxyuriasis**

**Information and advice**

**Definition**

Oxyuriasis is a common intestinal infection caused by a small white round worm measuring 1 cm in length and resembles a wire.

The worms lay eggs in the anal area during nighttime.

**Symptoms**

Oxyuriasis symptoms include anal itching, especially at nighttime, irritability and agitated sleep. However, the infection often has no symptoms.

**Transmission**

The infection is transmitted by the eggs of the worm, which are often found on the hands, under the nails, on bed linen, on towels and in food that is contaminated during handling. Infection can reoccur from the worm’s eggs laid in the anus.

**Treatment**

Treatment will be administered simultaneously to the infected person and to all family members, whether or not they are symptomatic. The treatment must be repeated after two weeks.

The recommendations of the doctor, the pharmacist or the manufacturer must be followed to the letter.

The infected person can continue to attend daycare or school.

**Other measures**

Because the treatment does not eliminate the worm’s eggs, the following personal hygiene measures can help decrease the risk of the infection reoccurring or being transmitted.

* Keeping nails cut short to prevent eggs from being lodged under them.
* Frequently washing hands with soap and water, especially before meals and snacks, during food preparation, after going to the toilet or changing a diaper.
* Not biting nails, not scratching the area around the anus and not putting hands in the mouth.
* Changing underwear and pyjamas every day.
* Taking a shower in the morning to eliminate eggs from the area around the anus. Showers are preferable to baths because the bathwater is likely to become contaminated.
* During the treatment:
* Washing in hot water bedsheets, towels, facecloths and security blankets used by all persons being treated.
* Vacuuming all rooms in the house frequently.
* Avoiding shaking sheets and clothing in order to prevent eggs from being released into the environment.