

# Exposure Notice to Families - Pinworms

Dear Family:

Your child may have been exposed to **pinworms** at the Head Start/ECEAP Center. Pinworms are tiny parasitic organisms that live in the lower digestive tract of humans.

**What are the symptoms?** Severe itching around the anus and/or vaginal area. Sometimes complaints of abdominal discomfort, restlessness at night, and irritability during the day occur.

**How is it spread?** Transfer of eggs from anus to hands, then to mouth. Contact with contaminated clothing, bedding or toys. The pinworm eggs are so small they are not visible and therefore are easily spread.

**When do symptoms start?** 2-6 weeks after exposure to an infected person or contaminated items.

**Need to keep child home?** No unless child is unable to participate in activities.

If you suspect that your child may have pinworms (as indicated by the symptoms listed above), please call your child's doctor or health care provider for proper diagnosis and treatment.

Please notify the Head Start/ECEAP Center if your child is diagnosed with pinworms.

Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Center \_\_\_\_\_