

Pink eye extends school closures in American Samoa

9 April 2014, by Fili Sagapolutele

American Samoa is keeping most schools closed for the rest of the week as the U.S. territory tries to contain a pink eye outbreak that has affected about 2,300 students, disrupted court hearings and kept some passengers from boarding flights.

All 28 [public schools](#) were scheduled to reopen Wednesday after shutting down Friday. But only four schools in the remote island group of Manua reopened. Officials in American Samoa, a group of islands in the South Pacific, will keep schools on the main island of Tutuila shuttered until next week.

Education Department director Salu Hunkin-Finau says more than 30 percent of teachers are on [sick leave](#) because of the common eye condition that can be extremely contagious.

Territory health officials say the outbreak is a nuisance but not very dangerous.

© 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

APA citation: Pink eye extends school closures in American Samoa (2014, April 9) retrieved 18 January 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-04-pink-eye-school-closures-american.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.