

Conjunctivitis (pinkeye)

Dear parent or guardian:

Your child recently may have been exposed to **conjunctivitis**, often called pinkeye. Pinkeye is common among children and is usually caused by a virus or bacteria. It may also be caused by allergies or another irritant.

Children with pinkeye don't usually need to stay home. Children with white or yellow discharge from their eyes should see a healthcare provider before returning to school. If your child is too sick to take part in normal activities, they should stay home.

Symptoms

Symptoms may include eye redness, burning, itching, and discharge. Eyelids may also be swollen or stick together. Pinkeye can affect 1 or both eyes.

Spread

Pinkeye caused by a virus or bacteria can spread from person to person. Touching your eyes with unwashed hands is a common way for viruses and bacteria to spread. It may also spread on contaminated surfaces and objects.

Diagnosis and treatment

A healthcare provider can diagnose pinkeye based on the symptoms. The healthcare provider may recommend using a cool or warm compress on the eye(s) several times a day.

Prevention

Good hygiene helps prevent the spread of pinkeye:

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water.
- Wash your hands after touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like tables, doorknobs, and toys, often.

Learn more

For more info, contact a healthcare provider.