

# CONJUNCTIVITIS (Pink Eye)



## Fact Sheet

Pink eye (conjunctivitis) is an inflammation or infection of the transparent membrane (conjunctiva) that lines your eyelid and covers the white part of your eyeball. It's called "Pink Eye" because the small, inflamed blood vessels become more visible and gives the eye a red or pink color. It is a common condition. Viral and bacterial pink eye are contagious and spread very easily and rapidly. Other non-contagious causes can also result in pink eyes, such as allergens, chemical or environmental irritants and contact lenses.

### SYMPTOMS

- Redness in one or both eyes.
- Swelling of the lining of the white part of the eye and eyelids.
- Eyes itch, ache or burn.
- Feels like something is in the eye.
- Clear or colored drainage from affected eye(s).
- Eyelashes may "glue" together.
- Allergy or cold symptoms may also be present.

Pink eye symptoms usually last 2 to 7 days, but may last up to 3 weeks. If the infection is determined to have a bacterial cause, antibiotics may be needed to clear the eyes.

*See your health care provider for symptoms that are severe or do not get better.*

If you would like to learn more about this, and other communicable diseases, go to <http://www.cdc.gov>.

This fact sheet was created by the Health Services Department of Beaverton School District and has been approved by the Washington County Health Department, Disease Control and Prevention Program.



Pinkeye usually does not affect vision.

In most cases the infection will clear without medical care, and participation in daily activities is not affected.

A cool, wet cloth feels good against the itchy eye, and helps to

clear away the



crusting from drainage.