

Prevention

If you have conjunctivitis:

Washing

Individuals should wash their hands before and after cleaning the eye(s). Also, individuals should wash the discharge around the eye(s) off.

Cleaning

Individuals should disinfect surfaces and objects like pillowcases, sheets, washcloths, towels, eyeglasses, and contact lenses.

Other

Individuals should not share items like pillows, washcloths, towels, eyedrops, makeup, makeup brushes, contact lenses, or eyeglasses. Individuals should not use swimming pools.

If you are around someone with conjunctivitis:

Individuals who are around someone with conjunctivitis should wash their hands after contact with an infected person or item, avoid touching the eyes, and avoid sharing items that were used by an infected individual.



Saginaw County
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Caring experts, advocates & champions.
For health. For everyone.



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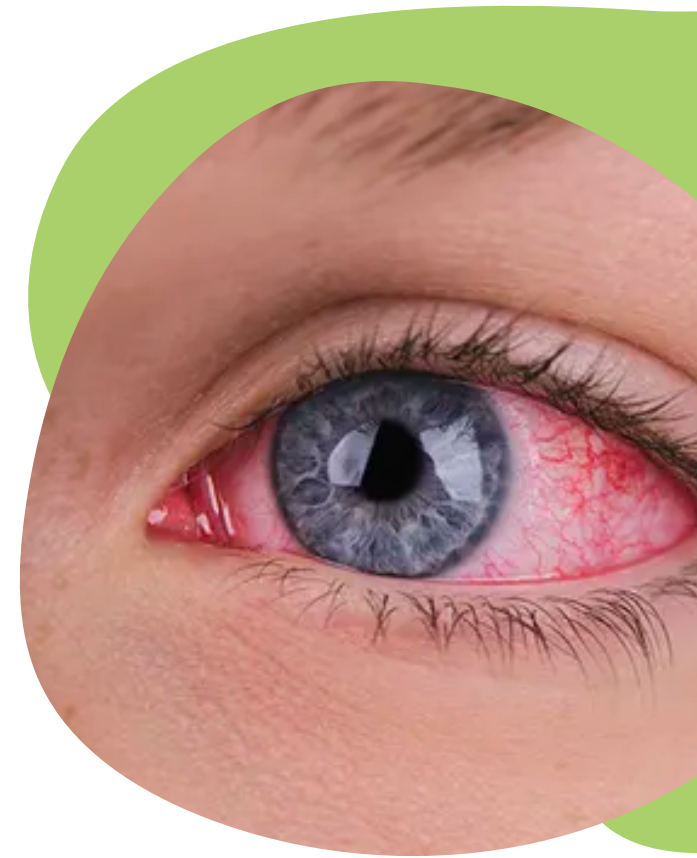


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Information on this brochure was withdrawn from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Pink Eye



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What is Pink Eye?

Pink eye is an infection, which is also known as conjunctivitis. There are different types of conjunctivitis which includes:

- Viral Conjunctivitis
- Bacterial Conjunctivitis
- Allergic Conjunctivitis
- Irritant Conjunctivitis

Pinkeye is most common in children that are in preschool or elementary school; however, anyone can be infected.



Symptoms

- Pink or red tint to the white of the eye(s)
- Swelling of the conjunctiva
- Tearing of the infected eye
- Sensation of a foreign body or urge to rub the eye(s)
- Itching, irritation, or burning
- Discharge of mucus or pus
- Crusting of eyelids or lashes
- Uncomfortable sensation from contact lenses

Viral Conjunctivitis

- Symptoms of a cold, flu, or other respiratory infection
- Typically begins in one eye and spreads to the other
- Watery discharge from eye(s)

Bacterial Conjunctivitis

- Discharge of pus
 - Typically leads to eyelids sticking together.
- Ear infection

Allergic Conjunctivitis

- Intense itching, tearing, and swelling of the eye(s)
- Typically occurs in both eyes
- Itchy nose, sneezing, scratchy throat, or asthma

Irritant Conjunctivitis

- Watery eye(s)
- Mucus discharge

Transmission

Pink eye is spread by person-to-person contact, coughing, sneezing, and touching surfaces or objects with germs.

Exclusion from School

Children with bacterial conjunctivitis may return to school 24 hours after appropriate treatment is given. Children with viral conjunctivitis should be excluded until symptoms are resolved.