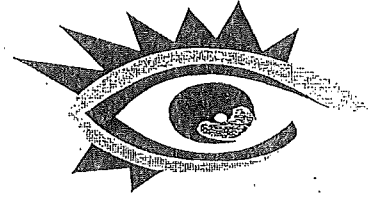


# CONJUNCTIVITIS (Pinkeye)



## What is pinkeye?

Pinkeye is a condition that is medically known as conjunctivitis. It is an inflammation of the conjunctiva, the clear mucous membrane that covers the white part of the eye and the inside of the eyelids.

## What are the symptoms?

Signs of pinkeye are red and irritated eyes. The eye or eyes may feel watery, gritty or itchy. There may be clear or yellow/green drainage noticeable along the eyelid of the affected eye.

## What causes pinkeye?

Pinkeye can be caused by allergies, viruses or bacteria.

**Allergies:** Pollen, cosmetics, dust or other materials can cause an allergic pinkeye.

**Viral:** Viruses can cause pinkeye. It is very common. It is sometimes associated with a cold.

**Bacterial:** Bacteria can cause pinkeye (not very common, usually viral). It usually is noted by green/yellow drainage along the mucous membrane of the eye.

## How is it spread?

Pinkeye is spread by contact with the discharge, either directly or through unwashed hands, common use of contaminated articles (linens, facial or nose tissues, etc.)

## What is the treatment?

Bacterial pinkeye is treated with antibiotic drops or ointment. Viral and allergic pinkeye is self-limiting. Only your doctor can diagnose the cause if it persists. Children who are symptomatic in school will be sent home until the symptoms are gone, a doctor has confirmed that it is not contagious, or it has been treated with antibiotic medication for at least 24 hours.

## How can it be prevented?

Good hand washing, proper disposal of used tissues, avoidance of sharing towels, pillows, make-up, etc can prevent pinkeye.