



## CONJUNCTIVITIS / PINKEYE

### What is pinkeye?

- Pinkeye is an infection of the eye and eyelid caused by bacteria. The bacteria are in the yellowish drainage in the eye.

### What are symptoms that could occur?

- Red and swollen eyelid(s) and sclera (white part of the eye)
- Pain or itching in the eye(s)
- Thick yellow drainage from one or both eyes
- Sensitivity of eyes to light
- Watery eyes

### How is it spread?

- It is spread by direct contact with the yellowish drainage.
- It is readily spread from one eye to the other and other people.
- Touching a contaminated object (pencils, toys, etc.) and then touching an eye can cause infection.
- Disease signs usually appear 2 to 5 days after exposure.

### How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary Care Provider evaluation
- Treated with antibiotic eye drops or ointment

### How can it be prevented?

- Hand washing.
- Educate people about personal cleanliness and the risk associated with use of common towels and toilet articles.
- Educate people to minimize hand-to-eye contact.
- Avoid communal eyedroppers, medicines, eye makeup, instruments or towels.
- Use safety measures such as goggles in industrial plants.

### Should the sick child be isolated?

- Children should be excluded from daycare or school with the first signs of illness.
- Proper hand-washing is very important in the prevention of spread of infection.

Genesee County Health Department  
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[www.gchd.us](http://www.gchd.us)

**When can the child return to day care or school?**

- Children may return to daycare or school after diagnosis and antibiotic treatment for 24 hours.

**Should schools do special cleaning?**

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

**If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?**

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-3612

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.

6/1/2004