



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

CONJUNCTIVITIS (Pink Eye)

What is conjunctivitis?

Conjunctivitis is an infection of the eye. It is commonly known as pink-eye. It is commonly caused by a virus, but it may be caused by a bacteria.

How is conjunctivitis spread?

Conjunctivitis may be spread through the following ways:

- By touching the tears of an infected person, and then touching your own eyes.
- By coming into contact with discharges from upper respiratory tract secretions from an infected person-from a cough or a sneeze.
- Babies may get an eye infection in the birth canal.

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- Redness and irritation of the eye.
- Itchiness.
- Discharge may make eyelids and eyelashes stick together, especially in the morning.
- Blurred vision.
- Sensitivity to light.

How is conjunctivitis diagnosed?

A doctor can diagnose conjunctivitis after examining your eyes. They may also do a swab for analysis.

What is the treatment for conjunctivitis?

Viral conjunctivitis will go away on its own in one to six weeks. Doctors may prescribe antibiotics in case the cause is a bacterium. Warm compresses may help ease the discomfort of conjunctivitis.

How do I prevent conjunctivitis?

- Keep your hands away from your eyes.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Do not share eye cosmetics.
- Do not share towels or handkerchiefs.
- Handle and clean contact lenses properly.

For more information on conjunctivitis:

Ottawa County Health Department

www.miOttawa.org

Medline Plus/National Institutes of Health

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001010.htm