



**Pink Eye/ Conjunctivitis
Information**

Pink eye is a highly contagious infection of the eye. The major causes of pink eye include infection by a virus or bacteria, allergy, injury or systemic diseases. Infection, however, is the most common cause. Adults and children can both be affected by pink eye, but children under 5 years of age are affected most often.

Incubation Period: Symptoms usually occur within 24-72 hours after exposure.

Symptoms: Itching and burning of the eyes, redness of eye or eyelids, tearing, thick and purulent drainage, matted eye lashes, swollen eye lids, sensitivity to light or eye pain.

Method of Transmission: Direct contact with drainage from eye (s) of infected person or indirect contact by touching items contaminated with drainage such as toys, pencils, crayons towels or clothing.

Control: Suspected cases of pink eye will be sent home. Parents are advised to take child with suspected infection to a doctor for diagnosis and treatment. Infected children are excluded from school until antibiotic therapy has been maintained for at least 24 hours and they are free of drainage.

Prevention:

Frequent, thorough hand washing by students and staff and disinfecting of shared articles. Use a separate washcloth and towel for infected eyes and avoid sharing eye make-up and sunglasses.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your building nurse or more information may be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/conjunctivitis/>

