

"Pink Eye" or conjunctivitis is an infection or irritation of the white part of the eye. It can be caused by any of following: viruses, bacteria, allergies, chemicals, foreign objects to the eye, or a blocked tear duct. Signs of an infection are: yellow/green drainage from the eye, redness of the white part of the eye, eyelids stuck together with pus, often after sleeping, watery drainage from the eye.

Pink Eye Precautions: Mild infections without pus does not require staying home. "Purulent Pink Eye" (pink eye with pus) is contagious from onset of pus until the child has been on antibiotic eye drops for 24 hours. **HOLD at home for 24 hours after first dose of antibiotic eye drops.**

Prevention: Encourage child not to rub or touch the eyes. Encourage proper hand washing. Use clean face towels and do not share face towels. Change pillow cases. Throw away eye make-up such as mascara and do not share personal eye care products. Pink eye is more contagious than the common cold.

Home Care: Keep the child's eyes clean. Use a warm clean cloth every time. Wash your hands before and after touching or cleaning your child's eyes. Take all medication as prescribed, even if the eyes look and feel better. Wash all linens in hot water until all antibiotics are finished.

Call your child's Doctor or take to the ER for evaluation if:

- Eyelids become red and or swollen.
- Your child develops a fever greater than 101 degrees F.
- Your child is not better in 3 days after starting the medication.
- Your child complains of an ear ache.
- Your child acts sicker.

Special Concerns:

If your child has a chronic or serious health problem or is under 3 years old, call your doctor for special instructions. This form does not replace instructions your doctor provides to you.

References: Children's Hospital of St. Louis, Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas City, Mayo Clinic, CDC, KDHE