

Precautions & Prevention of Spread

1. Good hand washing, especially after handling tissues to wipe eyes or blow nose.
2. Proper disposal of tissues.
3. Separate towel and washcloth for the infected person.
4. Disinfect toys and other items handled by infected person. Wash in dishwashing detergent and rinse in a dilute bleach solution (one part bleach to ten parts water).
5. Other environmental surfaces in the child's play area, such as tables, may be cleaned with standard household cleaning materials or dilute bleach solution.
6. Towels and washcloths should be washed in hot water and dried in a hot dryer.
7. Avoid touching or rubbing the eyes.



**SAGINAW COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**
protecting and promoting the public's health since 1928

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PINKEYE

Information
Brochure



PINKEYE

Pinkeye (Conjunctivitis)

An infection of the moist tissue that covers the front of the eyeball and lines the eyelids. It can be caused by a bacteria or virus. Pinkeye can infect anyone, but it is most common in preschool and elementary school age children.

Mode of Spread

- Direct contact with discharge from eyes, nose, or throat of an infected person.
- Fingers, clothes, toys and other items contaminated with the discharges, including shared eye make-up applicators and multi-dose eye medications.



Incubation Period

Within 24-72 hours of contact with the discharge of the infected person.

Symptoms

1. Tearing of the infected eye.
2. Irritation and redness of the moist tissue that covers the eyeball and lines the eyelids. (This symptom is what gives pinkeye its name).
3. Swelling of the affected eyelid.
4. Discharge from the affected eye that starts out clear and quickly progresses to thick yellow-green in appearance.

PINKEYE THAT STARTS OUT IN ONE EYE CAN QUICKLY SPREAD TO THE OTHER EYE!

VERY CONTAGIOUS!



Treatment



- Eye ointment or drops prescribed by the doctor are applied to the eye as directed.
- Be sure to wash your hands before inserting medication.

Exclusion from School



1. Exclude during the acute phase when yellow-green drainage is present.
2. Children with bacterial conjunctivitis may return to school after 24 hours of appropriate treatment.
3. Children with viral conjunctivitis should be excluded until all symptoms are resolved.