

Pinkeye

What is **Pinkeye**?



Pinkeye, also called conjunctivitis, is usually caused by one or two problems

Bacterial or viral infections:

- Bacterial and viral infections usually produce a white or yellowish pus that may cause the eyelids to stick shut in the morning.
- Allergic reactions to dust, pollen, and other materials. The discharge is usually clear and watery.

What are the symptoms of **Pinkeye**?

In addition to the symptoms listed above, red and sore eyes may also be a part of viral respiratory infections. All types of pinkeye cause redness and burning or itching of eyes

How do you get it?

The germs that cause **pinkeye** may be present in nasal secretions, as well as in the discharge from the eyes. People can be infected when their hands become contaminated with these materials and they rub their eyes.

Eyes can also become infected when a person uses contaminated towels or makeup.

How can you protect yourself and your family from **pinkeye**?

If you or your child develops pinkeye:

- See a doctor. Eye injuries and foreign bodies in the eye can cause similar symptoms.
- Monitor other family members and contacts for signs of developing pinkeye.
- Make sure children and adults use good hand washing practices and hygiene including proper use and disposal of paper tissues used for wiping noses.
- Eliminate any shared articles, such as towels. Use disposable paper towels.
- Disinfect any articles that may have been contaminated.
- Children with pinkeye should not attend school until they have been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours and cleared by their

physician, contact Volusia County Health Department (386) 274-0651 or (386) 274-0633.