



Chester Community Charter School

CONJUNCTIVITIS/ PINK EYE/ RED EYES PARENT LETTER

Conjunctivitis or Pink Eye

is an irritation or inflammation of the lining of the eye (conjunctiva) which covers the part of the eyeball. **Although conjunctivitis is treatable, it is highly infectious and difficult to diagnose the source of infection.** While not routinely done, your Health Care Provider may send a sample of the eye discharge to a laboratory to help determine which type of infection is present and how best to treat it.

Because a Health Care Provider can only diagnose pink eye or conjunctivitis, and to prevent the spread of infection, a Doctor's Note may be required for your child to return to school. Nurses do not diagnose and therefore, will base their assessment on your child's symptoms.

Causes of Conjunctivitis or Pink Eye

1. Allergies

- Occur seasonally when pollen counts are high
- Often accompanied by itchy throat and nose, sneezing, asthma and/or eczema.
- Conjunctivitis caused by allergies can develop into a contagious infection with rubbing of the eye.

TREATMENT

- Antihistamines.
- Allergy eye drops. Over the counter (Visine) & prescription antihistamine drops. These alleviate eye symptoms but not accompanying allergy symptoms.
- **If your child has been diagnosed with allergies, allergy eye drops, and allergy medication are to be given at home prior to school.** Generally, these medications are given 1-2 times per day and should alleviate your child's symptoms during school hours.
- Warm or cool compresses.

2. Viruses

- Infection is caused by a virus.
- May accompany a common cold or respiratory tract infection.
- Discharge from the eye is watery, rather than thick.

Contagious

- Remains contagious for the duration of the symptoms.

TREATMENT

- A Health Care Provider may prescribe anti-viral medication to treat more serious forms of viral conjunctivitis such as those caused by herpes simplex or the varicella zoster virus.
- No drops or ointments can treat viral conjunctivitis. Like a common cold, the virus needs to run its course, which may take 2-3 weeks.
- Warm or cool compresses
- Artificial tears
- Advise against wearing contact lenses.

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3. Bacteria

- Discharge from the eye is usually thick.
- Crusting eye lids are often present.
- May occur at the same time as an ear infection.

Contagious

- Contagious until 24hours after antibiotic use.

TREATMENT

- Antibiotics-Administered 4 times/day. (**Submit to the School Nurse the following**)
- The Doctor's Order for the medication to be given at school along with the diagnosis.
- The medication in the original pharmacy container.
- Indicate time of first dose.

4. Foreign Body

- Dirt or sand stuck under eyelid.
- Usually affects one eye.

5. Clogged tear duct

- Frequently seen in infants less than 1 year of age.
- Eye drainage is present without redness.

Contact your Health Care Provider after treatment for the following:

- Bacterial pink eye does not improve after 5 days of treatment with antibiotics.
- Allergic pink eye does not improve after 5 days of treatment. (Possibly progressed to a bacterial infection)
- Viral Pink eye begins to have an increase in drainage.
- Your child complains of vision problems except for simple blurring from discharge.