

CONJUNCTIVITIS- Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is redness and soreness of the eye.

- **Symptoms:** Your child may have redness, itching, pain and drainage from the eyes. Your child may have a fever. If your child is infected, it usually takes 1 to 3 days for symptoms to start.
- **Spread:** Conjunctivitis is spread by touching secretions from the eyes, nose or mouth. It can also be spread by touching contaminated hands, objects or surfaces.
- **Contagious Period:** The child is contagious while symptoms are present. Your child will need to stay home if there is thick white or yellow drainage or eye pain. The child will need to be excluded from school for 24 hours after the appropriate treatment has been initiated unless the doctor has issued a note with a diagnosis of a non-infectious conjunctivitis.
- **Call Your Healthcare Provider:** Contact your provider if your child has thick drainage from the eye. They will decide if treatment is needed.
- **Prevention:** You should cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing by using your sleeve or a tissue and properly dispose of the used tissue. Wash your hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the eyes, mouth or nose. Your child may need help with handwashing. Use a product that kills viruses to clean and disinfect any object that comes in contact with the secretions from the eyes, mouth or nose. **DO NOT** share anything that touches the eyes, such as towels and washcloths, eye makeup, contact lens solution or eye drops. Discourage the rubbing or touching the eyes and keep the eyes free of drainage.

Source- Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases: A Guide for School Administrators, Nurses, Teachers, Child Care Providers, and Parents or Guardians; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services-Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention)