

Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is an inflammation of the thin outer layer of the eyeball and the inner surface of the eyelids. The inflammation causes redness, tearing, and occasionally formation of pus. The most common causes are bacteria, viruses and allergy. The first two are contagious. Incubation is usually 1-3 days. Pink eye is spread from direct contact hand to eye having direct or indirect contact with discharge from the eyes. It is contagious while drainage is present. Treatment for bacterial pink eye is usually antibiotic eye drops. Viral or allergy related pink eye will reside on its own.

If you suspect your child has pink eye, they should be seen by your physician for proper diagnosis and treatment. It is important for a child of a young age to have both eyes treated even if one eye is affected. Over 90% of the time eventually both eyes will become infected if not treated at the same time. Your child should remain out of school for at least 24 hours after antibiotic eye drops have been started.

Proper handwashing is crucial in the role of pink eye prevention and treatment. If you have any questions, please call me at 326-0503 ext. 3264.