



"RED EYES"

EVERY STUDENT WITH A RED EYE DOESN'T NECESSARILY NEED TO BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL

There are three causes of Conjunctivitis "Pink Eye" bacterial, viral and allergic	BACTERIAL Conjunctivitis "Pink Eye"	VIRAL Conjunctivitis "Pink Eye"	ALLERGIC Conjunctivitis "Pink Eye"	Contact Lens Induced Redness
SYMPTOMS:	Sticky yellow-green discharge	Watery discharge, eyelids may appear swollen	Watery discharge, intense itching	Red, watery, painful, and light sensitive
AFFECTS:	One or both eyes	<u>Usually</u> only one eye	Usually both eyes	Usually one eye
TREATMENT:	Antibiotic eye drops	Typically none	Allergy eye drops	Antibiotic or Anti-inflammatory
CONTAGIBILITY:	Moderate-high	High*	Non-Contagious	None
OTHER INFORMATION:	Often related to ear infections	Often comes with the common cold	Acute onset, occurs during pollen seasons	Usually over-wear of contact, or sleeping in them
EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL:	Until 24 hours after antibiotics are started and longer if symptoms interfere with student's participation in class	No exclusion unless symptoms interfere with student's participation in class or child is too young to avoid spreading secretions to others	No exclusion unless symptoms interfere with student's participation in class	No exclusion Unless symptoms interfere with student's participation in class

HELPFUL TIPS

- *The same viruses that cause the common cold can also cause viral pink eye. Just as we do not exclude a student when he has a cold, we do not necessarily send a student home with redness of the eyes.
- Mandatory Hand Washing and decreasing hand-to-eye contact are the most important steps in preventing the spread of pink eye.
- It is very difficult to tell the difference between BACTERIAL AND VIRAL eye infections. The discharge is the best indicator. You might ask student if eye was stuck together upon awakening in the morning.
- Use warm compresses to clear sticky crusty lids or discharge, use cool compress for comfort. Never put an ice pack directly on the eye.
- Try saline eyewash to see if redness clears.
- It is best practice to date the saline eyewash bottle, and change to a new bottle each month. Eyewash / eye drops should be administered by trained personnel, not the student, to avoid contaminating the solution.
- Remove contact lens. It should not be worn if eye is red.
- If eye is painful and sensitive to light, see your doctor.
- Always, keep parents informed of any student concerns.