

CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE)

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the conjunctiva of the eye which can be caused by any of several bacteria, viruses, fungi or environmental allergens.

Symptoms

- Infection of the eye in which there can be a white or yellowish pus that can cause the eyelids to stick shut in the morning
- Redness or burning of the eyes
- Swollen eyelids
- Painful eye area

Transmission

- Pink eye can be caused by allergic reactions to pollens or dust
- Bacteria, fungi, or viruses can also cause pink eye
- The germs that cause conjunctivitis may be present in nasal secretions, as well as in the discharge from the eyes
- These germs are transmitted by direct contact, such as rubbing the eye with a contaminated hand that has come into contact with secretions from a person's coughing or sneezing
- Other ways that people can pass along the germs that cause pink eye is through shared towels, swimming in contaminated water, or even using contaminated cosmetics like eye shadow

Treatment

- Treatment of pink eye depends on what is causing the infection
- Topical antibiotics are required for the management of bacterial infections

Prevention

- It is very important to use proper hand washing technique and use disposable tissues and paper towels
- It may be important to exclude children from child care settings and school settings until antibiotics have been used for 24 hours

Additional Information

Exclusion for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment is advisable in the child care and often in the school setting.

All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

www.cdinfo.com

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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