

Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)



INFLAMED CONJUNCTIVA



Cause



- caused by a bacteria or virus
- transmitted by direct contact with discharge from eye of infected person or indirect contact with articles soiled with discharge from eye of infected person
- highly contagious

Symptoms



- puffiness of the eyelid
- yellowish discharge from the eye, which may crust overnight
- watery and/or reddened eyes
- with viral conjunctivitis you may also have pain, blurred vision, sensitivity to light, fever, headache and feel generally unwell

Treatment



- usually involves application of antibiotic ointment or drops to the eye (for bacterial conjunctivitis only)
- no treatment for viral conjunctivitis

Work Restrictions



- **If diagnosed with bacterial conjunctivitis**, staff must remain out of the workplace until 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment.
- **If diagnosed with viral conjunctivitis, or adenovirus** (epidemic keratoconjunctivitis), you will be excluded from direct patient contact until 14 days after the start of symptoms.
- **If diagnosed with viral conjunctivitis in both eyes**, the excluded period will be 14 days from when the infection started in the second eye.
- **If exposed to conjunctivitis** (including family members), there are no work restrictions or modification of work practices.
- **Other:**
 - Lab personnel who use microscopes should be reassigned to other duties
 - Medical clearance to return to work/full duties is required
 - **Contact Occupational Health**

Prevention



- good hand hygiene at all times
- wash hands frequently when you or family member have a cold
- do not share articles used near the eye, such as make-up, glasses, towels, etc.
- wash articles of clothing, towels, and bed linens of infected person prior to using
- avoid contact of your hands with your eyes
- if exposed to secretions from infected person's eye, rinse with water or saline