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# ***Pink Eye***

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## ***What is pink eye?***

- An infection of the eye caused by bacteria or viruses.

## ***How does a person get pink eye?***

- Easily spread by direct contact with discharge from an infected person's eye, nose or mouth.
- It can be spread by fingers, towels, clothing and other articles such as eye make-up applicators and eye drops.
- Can be spread until it is treated.

## ***What are the signs or symptoms?***

- Can cause watery, red eyes, itchiness, swelling and sensitivity to light.
- There may be pus or discharge from the eyes.
- It can last 2 days to 3 weeks.

## ***How is pink eye treated?***

- See your doctor for diagnosis and treatment.
- A person with symptoms due to a bacteria, should not return to child care, school or work until after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment. It is important to complete the antibiotics as prescribed.
- Discard or wash items that may have been in contact with eye or nose discharge.

## ***How is pink eye prevented?***

- Good handwashing reduces spread of pink eye.
- Teach children to avoid touching infected eyes

## ***Quick Facts***

- Caused by a bacteria or virus.
- Good handwashing reduces spread.
- Bacterial infections treated with antibiotics.

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For more information contact your doctor  
or Population and Public Health at **306-655-4612**

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