

Is it Pink Eye?

The kids have returned to school and so have eye infections. If you or your child wakes up with itchy, red, and swollen eyes, it's possible you have an eye infection. Conjunctivitis, more commonly known as "pink eye" irritates the thin, clear layer covering the eyeball and part of the eyelid (the conjunctiva). "Pink eye" is very common and can be quite contagious. It is often caused by a virus or bacteria and can also be caused by allergies or environmental irritants. Many people want to know how long pink eye is contagious. Unfortunately, there is no certain answer. The infectious state may last from a couple of days to more than a week. One rule of thumb is that if there is any discharge coming from the eye, then there is a risk of transmission.

Here are some symptoms to look with conjunctivitis:

- Inflammation of the eye
- Increased tearing
- Soreness of the eye
- Foreign body sensation
- Itchiness of the eye
- Hazy or blurred vision due to mucous or pus
- Excess mucous (pus)
- Crusting of the eyelashes in the morning

Regardless of the cause, conjunctivitis should not disrupt your vision. More serious conditions, such as damage to the cornea, very severe glaucoma or inflammation inside the eye can also cause the conjunctiva to become inflamed and pink. If your case of "pink eye" affects your vision or you experience eye pain, you should see an [ophthalmologist](#). More information about pink eye and other eye infections can be found [here](#).

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