



Elizabethtown & Bardstown Pediatrics

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What is Pink Eye and the symptoms associated with It?

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) is an inflammation of the thin, clear membrane (conjunctiva) that covers the eye. Pink Eye can cause eye redness, teary eyes, discharge, itching and burning of the eye. Pink Eye can be caused by bacteria, viruses, allergies, chemicals (such as smoke), irritants (such as dust), and other germs. Medications vary depending on what type of infection it is. Different infections require different medications. Pink Eye is contagious and how long it lasts depends on what kind of infection it is.

What are the symptoms of pink eye?

- The usual sign of pink eye is redness around the white of the eye.
- Infection may begin in one eye but will probably spread to the other.
- The eyes may be teary.
- The eyes may have discharge. The discharge may be watery or thick with mucus and pus. If discharge is crusty, it may look like your child has "sleep" in the corners of the eye. The discharge can and may cause the eyelids to stick together.
- Tears and discharge may cause some blurred vision.
- Your child may complain that it feels like something is in their eye.
- Their eyes may itch or burn.

When should I call the doctor?

- Call the doctor if the eyelid and area around the eye is swollen, red, or tender.
- Call the doctor if your child has constant blurred vision or double vision.
- Call the doctor if your child has severe eye pain or if his eyes are very sensitive to light.
- Call the doctor if your child has a fever over 102 degrees F (or 39 degrees C).
- Call the doctor if your child has small blisters close to the eye or cloudy tissue over the eye.
- Call the doctor if symptoms aren't better after 2 days of treatment. When left untreated, call if symptoms aren't better after 7 days.