

NOTIFICATION OF CONJUNCTIVITIS
(pink-eye can be bacterial or viral infection)

Incubation period: (the time between exposure to the disease and appearance of symptoms) 13 – 72 hours if a viral infection and 24-72 hours if a bacterial infection.

Contagious period: (when the disease can be transmitted to another person) Children are considered to be infectious until symptoms are gone.

Signs and symptoms: Include red eyes, watery or mucous discharge from eyes, itching, and burning.

Treatment: If the infection is bacterial, your doctor may prescribe an antibiotic. It is extremely important to use all medications as prescribed by your doctor.

How this disease is spread: This disease is usually spread by direct person-to-person contact by dirty hands, but may also be spread by respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing.

Control of cases: If your child has a bacterial infection, he/she should be kept home until at least 24 hours after beginning an antibiotic or until the symptoms are gone.

General preventative measures: Teach the importance of proper hand washing. When washing hands, use soap, rubbing hands together for 15 seconds and rinse in running water. Children should be advised not to share clothing, towels, make-up or eye medications.