



How to prevent the spread of pink eye?

If you or your child has infectious pink eye, avoid touching the eye area, and wash your hands frequently, particularly after applying medications to the area. Never share towels, and throw away tissues after each use. Change linens and towels daily. Disinfect all surfaces, including countertops, sinks, and doorknobs. Throw away any makeup used while infected.¹

Get tested for viral pink eye.

If you or your family member has pink eye symptoms, go immediately to your urgent care or primary care physician to assist you in diagnosis and treatment. Young patients may be more inclined to visit with their pediatric physicians.

Easing symptoms

To reduce pain and to remove the discharge of bacterial or viral pink eye, use a cold or warm compress on the eyes. Make sure to use a different washcloth for each eye to prevent spreading any infection. And use clean washcloths each time. Clean the eye from drainage by wiping from the inside to the outside of the eye area.¹

¹ webmd.com

² Thomson Reuters Medstat MarketScan Data, 2005.

³ Marangon FB, Miller D, Alfonso E. Arq Bras Oftalmol 2007; 70:189-194.

“I think I have Pink Eye.”

Do I need antibiotics?



It's important to know if it's viral or bacterial!

Ask your physician about how you can be tested for viral pink eye with a **Quidel Test**. You may not need antibiotics at all, hooray!

Every year, almost 6.9 million people get acute conjunctivitis, or “pink eye”, in the United States.² Up to 70% of conjunctivitis is viral.³

Pink eye is an inflammation of the conjunctiva (mucous membrane that covers white of eye and inner eyelids). Usually viral in origin and highly contagious.

Signs & Symptoms

- ✘ The symptoms of infectious pink eye typically begin in one eye and involve the other eye within a few days if it's caused by bacteria.
- ✘ If the cause is viral, symptoms start in both eyes at the same time.
- ✘ Symptoms of allergic pink eye usually involve both eyes and almost always includes itching.
- ✘ Swelling of the eyelids is more common with bacterial and allergic pink eye.
- ✘ Viral and allergic pink eye are known for causing more tear production than usual.¹

Why test for viral pink eye?

The sooner you find out you have **pink eye** and receive **proper treatment**, the better off you are in avoiding long-term complications that may include decreased clarity of vision, light sensitivity, and chronic dry eye.

It is important to be able to **distinguish a viral infection** of pink eye from a bacterial infection, as only bacterial infections need to be treated with antibiotics. Both viral and bacterial infections are highly **contagious!**

Antibiotics are ineffective when used for viral infections, and may cause long-term harm.



About pink eye

Pink eye – also called conjunctivitis – is redness and inflammation of the clear membranes covering the whites of the eyes and the membranes on the inner part of the eyelids.

Pink eye is most often caused by a virus or by a bacterial infection, although allergies, chemical agents, and underlying diseases can also play a role.

Viral and bacterial pink eye are extremely contagious. It's easily spread through poor hand washing or by sharing an object (like a towel) with someone who has it. It can also spread through coughing and sneezing.

Kids diagnosed with infectious pink eye should stay out of school or day care for a short period of time.

Allergic pink eye (caused by, for instance seasonal pollens or animal dander) and chemical pink eye (from chemicals or liquids, including bleach and furniture polish) are not contagious.¹

How do I get tested for viral pink eye?

The QuickVue Adenoviral conjunctivitis Test by Quidel is easy to administer by your physician or nurse practitioner.

To perform the test, your physician or nurse will gently dab the sampling fleece in multiple locations along the inside of your lower eyelid.

The test result will take about 10 minutes.



Test Positive: Your physician will not prescribe antibiotics. You have a viral infection and can use over-the-counter eyedrops for therapy. Your infection will go away in 7-10 days.

Test negative: Your physician will most likely prescribe antibiotics. You do not have a viral infection and may benefit from antibiotic treatment. If you have a positive result, your healthcare professional may provide you an antibiotic while you wait for a confirmation test. Your healthcare professional will decide what is best for you individually.