

Otterbein University

Student Health Center

Conjunctivitis (Pinkeye)

“Pinkeye” is the everyday term people use to describe an infection or irritation of the eye. The medical term for pinkeye is “conjunctivitis.” It may be caused by an infection, allergies, or an unknown irritant.

You may experience one or both eyes:

- Turning red or pink
- Weeping or oozing liquid
- Being itchy or burning
- Getting stuck shut

“Pinkeye” can be contagious if caused by a bacterial infection.

TREATMENT

Many cases go away on their own without treatment.

Pinkeye caused by a bacterial infection can be treated with antibiotic eye drops or gels.

Pinkeye caused by other problems can be treated with eye drops normally used to treat allergies. These drops will not cure the pinkeye, but they can help with itchiness and irritation. People with dry eyes can use medicine-free eye drops to wet the eyes.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD

Always practice **GOOD HANDWASHING**. Avoid touching the eye(s).

Stop wearing contacts, dispose of the contacts you had in the eyes.

Dispose of eye make-up that could be contaminated.

Use your washcloth one time, wash unaffected eye first.

Change your pillowcase. Do not lie down on couch pillows.

When using eye drops for infection, do not let drops trickle from one eye to the other. Also do not touch your good eye after touching the affected eye.