

West Delaware Community School
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PINK EYE, known medically as conjunctivitis, is an inflammation of the thin, transparent outer layer of the eyeball and the inner surface of the eyelids. The inflammation causes redness “bloodshot” in the white part of the eye, tearing, sometimes light sensitivity and occasionally formation of pus. There can be a feeling that there is a foreign body in the eye, itching and burning. Because of the redness, it is commonly called, “Pink eye.”

Pink eye is generally not threatening to a student’s eyesight, but medical attention is necessary to eliminate the possibility of such serious conditions as keratitis, an inflammation of the cornea.

If pink eye is diagnosed, antibiotic drops might be prescribed or ointment to control any bacterial infection. If the infectious conjunctivitis is caused by a virus the drops/ointment are ineffective. Therefore, some students with mild pink eye will be told by their physician that no treatment is necessary and the condition will go away by itself in a few days. Allergic conjunctivitis can be relieved, not cured, by certain nonantibiotic eye drops.

Pink eye is highly contagious through touch. Taking precautions at home can prevent the spread to other family members. Do not allow the infected person to share bath towels, handkerchiefs of other personal hygiene items. It is best to wear clothes only once before they are laundered. Be sure to WASH YOUR HANDS immediately after touching the eye surface of the infected person.

Check with your physician if the infected person’s eye or eyes continue to appear unusual or the inflammation has not improved after a week.