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### **What is it?**

- A bacterial or viral infection of the eye.

### **What are the symptoms?**

- Itchy irritated eyes.
- Whites of the eyes turn pink.
- Pus discharge from eyes. Eyes are often “glued shut” after sleeping.
- Discharge is white or yellow with bacterial pinkeye, while discharge with viral pinkeye is clear or watery

### **How quickly do symptoms develop?**

- Within 1 to 3 days after coming in contact with the infection (or 12hrs – 12 days for viral infections).

### **How is it spread?**

- Contact with discharges from the eye or upper respiratory tracts of infected people.
- Contaminating fingers with eye or throat discharges from an infected person and then touching your eyes.
- Indirectly through contaminated clothing, face cloths and towels or sharing eye-make up or eye medications

### **How long is it contagious?**

- As long as the eyes have discharge.
- Children with bacterial pink eye should not attend school/daycare until 24 hours after antibiotic has been started and the discharge has stopped.
- If viral, children do not need to be excluded if there is no eye discharge. If there is a discharge, children can return to school/child care if they have received approval from their health care provider.

### **How is it treated?**

- Bacterial pink eye is treated with an antibiotic.
- Sometimes the doctor will order an oral antibiotic as well as an antibiotic eye drop or ointment.

### **What can you do?**

- Do not share your face cloths or towels.

- Wash your hands after touching or wiping your eyes.
- Discard Kleenex soiled with eye or nose discharge into garbage container.

**Whom should I talk to if I have any questions?**

Infectious Diseases, Algoma Public Health at (705) 942-4646 [www.algomapublichealth.com](http://www.algomapublichealth.com), or your health care provider.