

Nurse's Corner on Pink Eye

Pink eye (also called conjunctivitis) is redness and swelling of the conjunctiva, the mucous membrane that lines the eyelid and eye surface. The lining of the eye is usually clear. If irritation or infection occurs, the lining becomes red and swollen.

Your child may have itching, tearing, and drainage. Pink eye is very common. It may be caused by allergies, viruses, or bacteria. Viral and bacterial pink eye are contagious and spread easily. Poor hand washing is the main cause of the spread of pink eye.

If it's viral pink eye, symptoms will improve in 3 to 5 days. Bacterial pink eye needs an antibiotic. Students may not come to school until symptoms improve, usually 24 hours on medication, and a doctor's note is brought in. It is important for the health of your student to treat and prevent pink eye.