

# PINK EYE

## WHAT IS PINK EYE?

Pink eye is a condition that causes the tissue lining your eyes to swell. It can be caused by bacteria, viruses, allergens, or irritants.

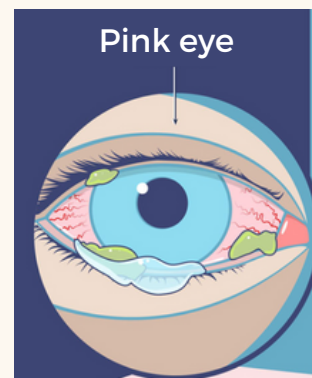
## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

Bacterial and viral pink eye can spread from person-to-person, but pink eye caused by allergens and irritants can not.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE IT?

If you have pink eye, your eyes may be:

- Red or swollen
- Watery
- Itching, hurting, or burning
- Crusty when you wake up
- Leaking pus or mucus
- Feeling like they have something in them



## HOW CAN I PREVENT IT?



Wash your hands often with soap and water.



Do not share things that touch your eyes, like a pillow.



Do not touch your eyes with unwashed hands.

## TREATMENT TIPS:



You can use liquid eye drops called "artificial tears," to help with the dryness and swelling. Do not wear contacts until your doctor says it's okay.

## WHEN TO CALL A DOCTOR?

You should contact your doctor if your symptoms stay the same after using over the counter or home medicine. Newborns with pink eye should see a doctor right away.

To learn more, visit the Pink Eye webpage at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

6/20/23