



What is pinkeye?

- An infection of the eye/eyelid caused by a bacteria or virus; sometimes by allergens and irritants (swimming pools or smog). One of the most common treatable eye conditions of adults and children.

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Red and swollen white part of eye or inside eyelids
- Increased tearing
- White, yellow, or green eye discharge
- Itchy, irritated, and/or burning eyes
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Gritty feeling in the eye
- Crusting of eyelids or lashes, especially overnight

How is it spread?

- Direct contact with eye drainage
- Touching a contaminated object (pencils, toys, etc.) and then touching one's eye
- Disease signs usually appear 2 to 5 days after exposure

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary Care Provider evaluation
- May be treated with antibiotic eye drops or ointment

How can it be prevented?

- Wash your hands often
- Avoid touching or rubbing your eyes
- Educate people about personal cleanliness and the risk associated with use of common towels and toilet articles
- Avoid communal eyedroppers, medicines, eye makeup, instruments or towels

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- Individuals should be excluded from the population with the first signs of illness
- Proper hand-washing is very important in the prevention of spread of infection

When can the individual return to the general population?

- Individuals may return after diagnosis and antibiotic treatment for 24 hours or after drainage has stopped

Should facilities do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017