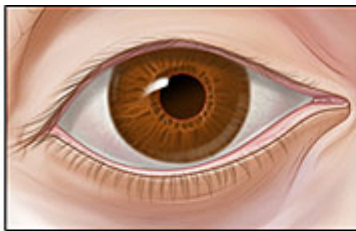
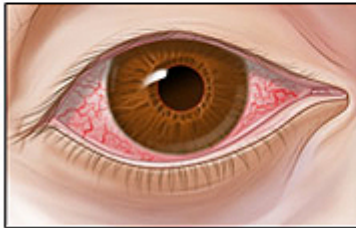


# Pinkeye From a Virus in Children: Care Instructions



Eye with healthy conjunctiva



Inflamed or irritated conjunctiva

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## Overview

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Pinkeye is a problem that many children get. In pinkeye, the lining of the eyelid and the eye surface become red and swollen. The lining is called the conjunctiva (say "kawn-junk-TY-vuh"). Pinkeye is also called conjunctivitis (say "kun-JUNK-tih-VY-tus").

Pinkeye can be caused by bacteria, a virus, or an allergy.

**Your child's pinkeye is caused by a virus.** This type of pinkeye can spread quickly from person to person, usually from touching.

Pinkeye caused by a virus usually gets better on its own in 7 to 10 days. But it can last longer. Antibiotics do not help this type of pinkeye.

**Follow-up care is a key part of your child's treatment and safety.** Be sure to make and go to all appointments, and call your doctor if your child is having problems. It's also a good idea to know your child's test results and keep a list of the medicines your child takes.

## How can you care for your child at home?

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### Make your child comfortable

- Use moist cotton or a clean, wet cloth to remove the crust from your child's eyes. Wipe from the inside corner of the eye to the outside. Use a clean part of the cloth for each wipe.
- Put cold or warm wet cloths on your child's eyes a few times a day if the eyes hurt or are itching.
- Do not have your child wear contact lenses until the pinkeye is gone. Clean the contacts and storage case.
- If your child wears disposable contacts, get out a new pair when the eyes have cleared and it is safe to wear contacts again.

### Prevent pinkeye from spreading

- Wash your hands and your child's hands often. Always wash them before and after you treat pinkeye or touch your child's eyes or face.
- Do not have your child share towels, pillows, or washcloths while your child has pinkeye. Use clean linens, towels, and washcloths each day.
- Do not share contact lens equipment, containers, or solutions.

## When should you call for help?

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**Call your doctor now** or seek immediate medical care if:

- Your child has pain in an eye, not just irritation on the surface.
- Your child has a change in vision or a loss of vision.
- Pinkeye lasts longer than 7 days.

Watch closely for changes in your child's health, and be sure to contact your doctor if:

- Your child does not get better as expected.

### Where can you learn more?

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Go to <https://www.healthwise.net/PatientEd>

Enter **A864** in the search box to learn more about "**Pinkeye From a Virus in Children: Care Instructions**".

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