

Mayo Clinic Minute: What parents need to know about conjunctivitis

Video	Audio
Dr. Marcie Billings Pediatrics Mayo Clinic	"Conjunctivitis is actually an inflammation of the conjunctiva, which is a thin layer of tissue that kind of covers the white of your eye as well as the underside of the lid."
	That can lead to inflammation of the blood vessels, which tends to lead to redness. Most cases are caused by a virus.
	"The virus that causes pink eye is essentially the same virus that's causing your common cold. "
	Common symptoms include redness in one or both eyes, itchiness or grittiness in the eyes, and drainage.
	Treating pink eye no longer includes the use of antibiotics.
	"Viruses, as we know, don't respond to antibiotics."
	Use a cool compress on the eye and consider using artificial tears.
	It also means you don't have to keep your child home from school.
	"You would send your child to school if they had a runny, stuffy nose as long as they were able to participate in normal school activities. Pink eye or viral conjunctivitis is no different.
	You can also manage and prevent the spread of the virus with good hand hygiene.
	Check with your health care provider if you have concerns.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Ian Roth.