

Conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation involving the mucous membrane of the eye. Symptoms include redness, swelling, and discharge. The infection may be viral or bacterial, both are self limited but may take up to 10 days to resolve.

Conjunctivitis is very contagious and is passed with contact with drainage from the eye. Proper handwashing is extremely important. It is also important to wash bedding, towels, etc., and not to scratch or rub the eyes. Children are contagious until the drainage is gone.

Viral conjunctivitis has thick discharge in the morning and clears throughout the day. It is contagious, but antibiotics are unnecessary since it is a virus. You may use warm wash cloths to clear the eyes of the drainage.

Bacterial conjunctivitis has discharge throughout the day with redness and is treated with antibiotic eye drops. Your child should be seen in our office if there is a fever, pain with eye movement, any swelling to the eye, or redness on the skin surrounding the eye.