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# *Pink Eye*

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## **What is pink eye?**

- pink eye is an infection of the eye caused by bacteria or viruses
- pink eye can cause watery, red eyes, and swelling and sensitivity to light. It can last from 2 days to 3 weeks.

## **How do we get pink eye?**

- by contact with the discharge from an infected person's eye, nose or mouth
- can be spread by fingers, towels, clothing and other articles such as eye make-up applicators and eye drops
- pink eye can be spread until it is treated

## **What can you do if your child has pink eye?**

- encourage thorough handwashing
- seek treatment early
- treat your child with antibiotics for at least 24 hours, before returning to school
- to prevent re-infection, finish all the medication as prescribed
- wash all items that may have been in contact with eye or nose discharge

For more information, contact Public Health Services.

