

CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET **CONJUNCTIVITIS** (PINK EYE)

Symptoms

- Infection of the eye in which there can be a white or yellowish pus that can cause the eyelids to stick shut in the morning
- Redness or burning of the eyes

Transmission

- Pink eye can be caused by allergic reactions to pollens or dust
- Bacteria, fungi, or viruses can also cause pink eye
- The germs that cause conjunctivitis may be present in nasal secretions, as well as in the discharge from the eyes
- These germs are transmitted by direct contact, such as rubbing the eye with a contaminated hand that has come into contact with secretions from a person's coughing or sneezing
- Other ways that people can pass along the germs that cause pink eye is through shared towels, swimming in contaminated water, or even using contaminated cosmetics like eye shadow

Treatment

- Treatment of pink eye depends on what is causing the infection
- Topical antibiotics are required for the management of bacterial infections

Prevention

- It is very important to use good hand washing skills and use disposable tissues and paper towels
- It may be important to exclude children from child care settings and school settings until antibiotics have been used for 24 hours

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

www.cdinfo.com

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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