

Pink eye

Schools and daycare centers become very concerned when they see a child with red or pink eyes.

The truth is, not all pink eye is the "pink eye" that they are worried about spreading through the school.

Red eyes can be caused by a number of things. These include allergies, viral infections, bacterial infections, sinus infections, trauma or foreign body, deep eye infection (cellulitis), autoimmune reaction or chronic disease.

Most of the time, however, pink eye is a bacterial infection. This DOES NOT always mean that antibiotic drops will fix the problem. In fact, often the eye is just a symptom of a bacterial infection going on elsewhere, most commonly the sinuses, ears, or deep in the eye tissue. Hence, it is preferred that "pink eye" is examined by a physician, especially if it is not improving with antibiotic drops within a day or two.

Pink eye will not hurt your child. We understand that many times parents panic that their child will not be able to attend school the next day if they are not being treated. We ask that you wait until normal business hours to call and discuss this problem. HOWEVER, if your child has a swollen eye along with it being pink, and when you press on it, it is painful and they are running a high fever, it is recommended that you call right away.

Oftentimes, children will have some yellow crusty or mucus discharge that comes from their eye(s). This can occur if a child has a cold, allergies or if tears have accumulated and thickened. If the white part of the eye itself is not red or pink, we ask that you wipe the eye discharge gently with a warm washcloth and observe for several days unless something changes.