Your child may have been exposed to:

| Pink Eye | Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is redness and soreness of the eye. Pink eye is usually caused by viruses or bacteria. |

If you think your child has **pink eye**, tell your childcare provider or call the school.

**Does my child need to stay home from childcare or school?** No, unless your child has a fever or is not healthy enough to participate in routine activities. Antibiotics or a note from a health care provider are not required to return to childcare or school.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

**Symptoms**

Your child may have redness, itching, pain, and drainage from the eyes. Your child may have a fever.

If your child is infected, it usually takes 1 to 3 days for symptoms to start.

**Spread**

- By touching secretions from the eyes, nose, or mouth.
- By touching hands, objects, or surfaces contaminated with secretions.

**Contagious period**

While symptoms are present.

**Call your health care provider**

- If your child has thick drainage from the eye. Your doctor will decide if treatment is needed. If the infection is caused by a virus, no specific antiviral treatment is usually needed. Antibiotic treatment may be prescribed if a bacterial infection is diagnosed. Most children with pink eye get better after 5 or 6 days without antibiotics.

**Prevention**

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues in the trash.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the eyes, nose, or mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect objects that come in contact with secretions from the eyes, nose, or mouth. Use a product that kills germs.
- Do not share anything that touches the eyes, such as towels, washcloths, eye makeup, contact lens solution, or eye drops.
- Discourage rubbing and touching the eyes. Keep your child’s eyes wiped free of drainage.
- Use a cotton-tipped swab to apply medication.