Your child may have been exposed to:

Pink Eye

Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is redness and soreness of the eye.

If you think your child has Pink Eye:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

  Childcare and School:

  Yes, if there is thick white or yellow drainage and eye pain, the child should be excluded until appropriate treatment has been initiated or the discharge from the eyes has stopped unless doctor has diagnosed a non-infectious conjunctivitis.

  No, if eye drainage is clear and watery and the child has no eye pain.

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 contaminated hands, objects, or surfaces.

Contagious Period

While symptoms are present.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- If your child has thick drainage from the eye. Your doctor will decide if treatment is needed.
- Antibiotic treatment may be prescribed. If the infection is caused by a virus, antiviral treatment may be needed.

Prevention

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

For more information, call Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) at 573-751-6113 or 866-628-9891 (8-5 Monday thru Friday) or call your local health department.