

Conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis is an eye condition caused by infection or allergies. It usually gets better in a couple of weeks without treatment.

Check if you have conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis is also known as red or pink eye.

It usually affects both eyes and makes them:

- bloodshot
- burn or feel gritty
- produce pus that sticks to lashes
- itch
- water



Conjunctivitis that produces sticky pus is



contagious.
the conjunctivitis is also usually contagious.

If eyes are red and feel gritty,



Conjunctivitis caused by allergies like hay

fever makes eyes red and watery but is not contagious.

If you're not sure it's conjunctivitis

Other conditions can cause [red eyes](#).

How to treat conjunctivitis yourself

There are things you can do to help ease your symptoms.

Use clean cotton wool (1 piece for each eye). Boil water and then let it cool down before you:

- gently rub your eyelashes to clean off crusts
- hold a cold flannel on your eyes for a few minutes to cool them down

Do not wear contact lenses until your eyes are better.

Stop infectious conjunctivitis from spreading

Do

- wash hands regularly with warm soapy water
- wash pillows and face cloths in hot water and detergent

Don't

- do not share towels and pillows
- do not rub your eyes

Staying away from work or school

You do not need to avoid work or school unless you or your child are feeling very unwell.

A pharmacist can help with conjunctivitis

Speak to a pharmacist about conjunctivitis. They can give you advice and suggest eyedrops or antihistamines to help with your symptoms.

If you need treatment for a child under 2, you'll need a prescription from a GP.

Find a pharmacy

Non-urgent advice: See a GP if:

- your baby has red eyes – **get an urgent appointment if your baby is less than 28 days old**
- you wear contact lenses and have conjunctivitis symptoms as well as spots on your eyelids – you might be allergic to the lenses
- your symptoms have not cleared up after 2 weeks