



NORTHERN MINNESOTA EYE CARE

ASK THE OPTOMETRIST

WHAT IS CONJUNCTIVITIS?

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation or infection of the conjunctiva, the thin transparent layer of tissue that lines the inner surface of the eyelid and covers the white part of the eye. Conjunctivitis, often called “pink eye,” is a common eye disease, especially in children. It may affect one or both eyes. Some forms of conjunctivitis can be highly contagious and easily spread in schools and at home. While conjunctivitis is usually a minor eye infection, sometimes it can develop into a more serious problem.

Conjunctivitis may be caused by a viral or bacterial infection. It can also occur due to an allergic reaction to irritants in the air like pollen and smoke, chlorine in swimming pools, and ingredients in cosmetics or other products that come in contact with the eyes. Sexually transmitted diseases like Chlamydia and gonorrhea are less common causes of conjunctivitis.

People with conjunctivitis may experience the following symptoms:

- A gritty feeling in one or both eyes
- Itching or burning sensation in one or both eyes
- Excessive tearing
- Discharge coming from one or both eyes
- Swollen eyelids
- Pink discoloration to the whites of one or both eyes
- Increased sensitivity to light

The cause of conjunctivitis varies depending on the offending agent. There are three main categories of conjunctivitis: allergic, infectious and chemical. The appropriate treatment for conjunctivitis depends on its cause.

Make an appointment today with an optometrist at Northern Minnesota Eye Care if you are having any signs or symptoms of conjunctivitis.

**Appointments available Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00 - 4:00
Thursday from 9:00 - 6:00**

Walk-ins also available. Most insurances are accepted.

Christopher A. McDowell, O.D. Sasha N. Narayan, O.D.

**1001 Cloquet Ave • Cloquet • 879-1558
www.northernmneyecare.com**