

MEMO

TO: Sheboygan County School Personnel
FROM: Sheboygan County Division of Public Health
RE: Conjunctivitis ("Pink Eye")

"Pink Eye" (Conjunctivitis) is an inflammation or infection of the transparent membrane (conjunctiva) that lines the eyelid and part of the eyeball. The cause of "Pink Eye" is commonly a bacterial or viral infection, or an allergic reaction.

The role of the Division of Public Health is to make recommendations about how to address this contagious infection as it relates to staff and students in the school system.

The Division of Public Health recommends that:

1. Staff or students **SHOULD NOT** attend school functions if they are experiencing pink or red conjunctiva accompanied by white, yellow, or green discharge and eyelid tenderness UNTIL examined and treated, if necessary, and approved to attend school by a health care practitioner.
2. Staff or students **SHOULD** be allowed to attend school functions if they are experiencing pink conjunctiva with a clear, watery discharge, absent of eyelid tenderness.

In the event there is a question of the condition, the individual should be referred in a timely manner to a health care practitioner to avoid spread of infection. Practicing good hand washing is the best way to control the spread of "Pink Eye."

Contact the Division of Public Health at 459-4382 or 1-800-596-1919, ext. 4382 if you have any questions regarding this issue.