



Graded Conjunctivitis Policy (2020-21)

This policy aims to provide information on how to proceed when there is a case of conjunctivitis at Graded.

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation or infection of the transparent membrane (conjunctiva) that lines the eyelid and covers the white part of the eyeball. When small blood vessels in the conjunctiva become inflamed, they are more visible. This is what causes the whites of the eyes to appear reddish or pink. This is why conjunctivitis is commonly known as pink eye.

Conjunctivitis has many causes, but in most cases it results from an infection with a virus or bacterium, or from a reaction to an allergen. No matter the cause, conjunctivitis always involves inflammation of the conjunctiva. Conjunctivitis may also result in other signs and symptoms, which may vary, depending on the cause. These signs and symptoms can be used to diagnose the type of conjunctivitis.

Though pink eye can be irritating, it rarely affects your vision. Treatments can help ease the discomfort of pink eye. Because pink eye can be contagious, early diagnosis and treatment can help limit its spread.

The most common pink eye symptoms include:

- Redness, in one or both eyes, and in the white of the eye.
- Itching or burning in one or both eyes.
- A gritty feeling in one or both eyes.
- Swollen and tender areas in front of the ears.
- A discharge in one or both eyes that forms a crust during the night that may prevent the eye(s) from opening in the morning.
- Tearing.

An appointment with an ophthalmologist must be scheduled if any signs or symptoms are noticed. Early diagnosis and treatment can protect others from contracting conjunctivitis. Students who wear contact lenses must remove their contacts as soon as any symptoms arise.



As conjunctivitis can be highly contagious for as long as two weeks after signs and symptoms appear, the subsequent steps will be followed:

1. The student with a suspected case of conjunctivitis will be sent to the Nurse's Office for evaluation.
2. The student's parents will be notified by the nurse and be asked to pick their child up from school.
3. The school nurse will provide parents with information about conjunctivitis.
4. The parents will be instructed to take their child to a general doctor or to an eye doctor for the correct diagnosis.
5. The doctor will then prescribe treatment and orient the family about how long the child must remain out of school in order to prevent other students from getting conjunctivitis.
6. If symptoms persist, parents must take the child back to the doctor for another evaluation.
7. A doctor's note will be necessary for the student to return to school. This must be presented to the school nurse upon arrival, on the day the child returns to school.
8. Parents of other students in the same grade will not receive official communication from the divisional office.

REFERENCES:

[WebMD](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Mayo Clinic](#)

[Universidade Federal do Ceará](#)

[Centro Paranaense de Oftalmologia](#)

[Website Tua Saúde](#)



Dear Parent or Guardian,

We suspect that your child may have conjunctivitis.

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation or infection of the transparent membrane (conjunctiva) that lines the eyelid and covers the white part of the eyeball. When small blood vessels in the conjunctiva become inflamed, they are more visible. This is what causes the whites of the eyes to appear reddish or pink. Conjunctivitis is commonly known as pink eye.

Conjunctivitis has many causes, but in most cases it results from an infection with a virus or bacterium, or from a reaction to an allergen. The signs and symptoms can be used to diagnose the type of conjunctivitis.

Because the pink eye can be contagious, early diagnosis and treatment can help limit its spread.

The most common pink eye symptoms include:

- Redness, in one or both eyes, and in the white of the eye.
- Itching or burning in one or both eyes.
- A gritty feeling in one or both eyes.
- Swollen and tender areas in front of the ears.
- A discharge in one or both eyes that forms a crust during the night that may prevent the eye(s) from opening in the morning.
- Tearing.

An appointment with an ophthalmologist should be scheduled for your child in order to obtain the correct diagnosis and treatment procedure. Early diagnosis and treatment can protect others from getting conjunctivitis, too.

Attached you will find “Facts About Conjunctivitis” to assist you in providing prompt treatment for your child.

We would like to remind you that a doctor’s note will be necessary in order for your child to return to school. This note must be turned in to the school nurse immediately upon your child’s return to school.

We recommend that you check for signs of conjunctivitis in all members of your household and take them to the doctor for the correct treatment, if necessary.

If you have any further questions, please consult your healthcare provider or contact the school nurse at (11) 3747-4846.