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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/eyeinfections.html>

Eye Infections

Your eyes can get infections from bacteria, fungi, or viruses. Eye infections can occur in different parts of the eye and can affect just one eye or both. Two common eye infections are:

- Conjunctivitis - also known as pink eye [<https://medlineplus.gov/pinkeye.html>] . Conjunctivitis is often due to an infection. Children frequently get it, and it is very contagious.
- Stye - a bump on the eyelid that happens when bacteria from your skin get into the hair follicle of an eyelash.

Symptoms of eye infections may include redness, itching, swelling, discharge, pain, or problems with vision. Treatment depends on the cause of the infection and may include compresses, eye drops, creams, or antibiotics.

Start Here

- Common Types of Eye Infections [<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/eye-infections>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
- Eye Problems: Symptom Checker Flowchart [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/eye-problems/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/problemas-de-los-ojos/?adfree=true>]
- Fungal Eye Infections Basics [<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal-eye-infections/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Symptoms

- Eye Symptoms [<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/symptoms-list>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aao.org/salud-ocular/sintomas-lista>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Dilating Eye Drops [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/dilating-eye-drops>] (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)

Treatments and Therapies

- How to Use Eye Drops [<https://www.safemedication.com/-/media/SafeMed/Flyers/Eye-Drops-Flyer.pdf>] (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists) - **PDF**
- How to Use Eye Ointments and Gels Properly [<https://www.safemedication.com/how-to-use-medication/eye-gels>] (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists) - **PDF**

Related Issues

- Eye Infections from Contact Lenses [<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/contact-lens-related-eye-infections>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aao.org/salud-ocular/enfermedades/infecciones-relacionadas-con-lentes-de-contacto-2>]
- Inflammation of the Orbit [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/eye-disorders/eye-socket-disorders/inflammation-of-the-orbit>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-oft%C3%A1lmicos/trastornos-de-la-cavidad-ocular-%C3%B3rbita/inflamaci%C3%B3n-de-la-%C3%B3rbita>]

- Trichiasis [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/eye-disorders/eyelid-and-tearing-disorders/trichiasis>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-oft%C3%A1lmicos/trastornos-de-los-p%C3%A1rpados-y-de-las-brisas/triquiasis>]

Specifics

- Acanthamoeba Infections [<https://www.cdc.gov/acanthamoeba/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Blepharitis [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/eye-conditions-and-diseases/blepharitis>]
 (National Eye Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/espanol/aprenda-sobre-la-salud-ocular/enfermedades-y-afecciones-de-los-ojos/blefaritis>]
- Cellulitis [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/cellulitis>] (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Dacryocystitis [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/eye-disorders/eyelid-and-tearing-disorders/dacryocystitis>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-oft%C3%A1lmicos/trastornos-de-los-p%C3%A1rpados-y-de-las-brisas/dacriocistitis>]
- Endophthalmitis [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/eye-disorders/uveitis-and-related-disorders/endophthalmitis>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
- Herpes Eye Infections: What is Herpes Keratitis? [<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/herpes-keratitis>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aao.org/salud-ocular/enfermedades/queratitis-herpetica>]
- Shingles [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/shingles/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/culebrilla-es/?adfree=true>]
- Sty (Sty) [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/sty/symptoms-causes/syc-20378017?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/sty/symptoms-causes/syc-20378017?p=1>]
- What Is Bacterial Keratitis? [<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-bacterial-keratitis>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aao.org/salud-ocular/enfermedades/queratitis-bacteriana>]
- What Is Fungal Keratitis? [<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-fungal-keratitis>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aao.org/salud-ocular/enfermedades/queratitis-fungica>]

Images

- Blepharitis [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/blepharitis/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)

Statistics and Research

- Eye Health Data and Statistics [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/eye-health-data-and-statistics>]
 (National Eye Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/espanol/aprenda-sobre-la-salud-ocular/datos-y-estadisticas-relacionadas-con-la-salud-ocular>]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Eye Infections [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Eye+Infections%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Targeting Ocular Biofilms with Plant-Derived Antimicrobials in the Era of Antibiotic... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40649377>]

• Article: Wearing bacteriophages individually with an adhesive drug-loadable nanohelmet for treating ocular... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40644532]

• Article: An Epidemic of Respiratory and Ocular Infections Caused by the Reemergence... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40586718]

• Eye Infections -- see more articles [https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Eye+Infections%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+]

Reference Desk

• NEI for Kids: Glossary [https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/nei-for-kids/glossary]  (National Eye Institute)

Find an Expert

• Find an Ophthalmologist [https://secure.aao.org/aoa/find-ophthalmologist] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [https://secure.aao.org/aoa/encontrar-oftalmologo]

• National Eye Institute [https://www.nei.nih.gov/] 

Children

• About the Eye [https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/nei-for-kids/about-eye]   (National Eye Institute)

• Eye Infections in Infants and Children [https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/eyes/Pages/Eye-Infections.aspx] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [https://www.healthychildren.org/Spanish/health-issues/conditions/eyes/Paginas/eye-infections.aspx]

• Molluscum Contagiosum [https://www.aapos.org/glossary/molluscum-contagiosum]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)

Teenagers

• Never Buy Decorative Contact Lenses without a Prescription [https://www.aao.org/eye-health/news/scary-lenses]  (American Academy of Ophthalmology)

Women

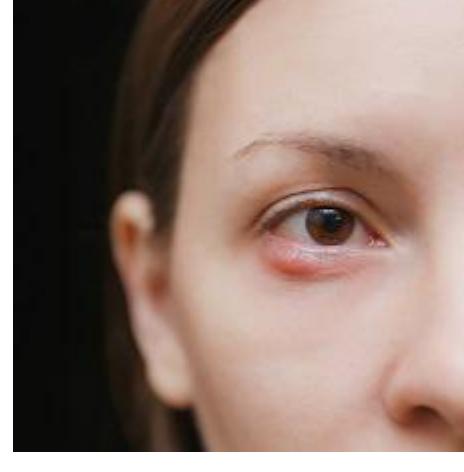
• How to Use Cosmetics Safely around Your Eyes [https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/eye-makeup]
(American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [https://www.aao.org/salud-ocular/consejos/uso-de-maquillaje-en-los-ojos]

Patient Handouts

- Blepharitis [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001619.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001619.htm]
- CMV retinitis [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000665.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000665.htm]
- Corneal ulcers and infections [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001032.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001032.htm]
- Dacryoadenitis [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001625.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001625.htm]
- Endophthalmitis [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001626.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001626.htm]
- Eye burning - itching and discharge [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003034.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003034.htm]
- Eye redness [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003031.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003031.htm>]

- Meibomianitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001621.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001621.htm>]
- Orbital cellulitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001012.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001012.htm>]
- Parinaud oculoglandular syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000736.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000736.htm>]
- Periorbital cellulitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000976.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000976.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

[Blepharitis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001619.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001619.htm>]

[CMV retinitis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000665.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000665.htm>]

[Corneal ulcers and infections](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001032.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001032.htm>]

[Dacryoadenitis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001625.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001625.htm>]

[Endophthalmitis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001626.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001626.htm>]

[Eye burning - itching and discharge](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003034.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003034.htm>]

[Eye redness](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003031.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003031.htm>]

[Meibomianitis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001621.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001621.htm>]

[Orbital cellulitis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001012.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001012.htm>]

[Parinaud oculoglandular syndrome](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000736.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000736.htm>]

[Periorbital cellulitis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000976.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000976.htm>]

[Slit-lamp exam](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003880.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003880.htm>]

[Trachoma](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001486.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001486.htm>]

Related Health Topics

[Eye Diseases](https://medlineplus.gov/eyediseases.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/eyediseases.html>]

[Pink Eye](https://medlineplus.gov/pinkeye.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/pinkeye.html>]

The primary NIH organization for research on *Eye Infections* is the National Eye Institute [<https://nei.nih.gov/>]

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