

North Suburban YMCA Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis) Policy

The safety and wellness of your children and our staff are always top priorities. Pink Eye (conjunctivitis) is a common and highly contagious eye infection that we take seriously to prevent outbreaks within camp.

What is Pink Eye?

Pink Eye can be caused by a virus, bacteria, or allergies. The viral and bacterial forms are contagious.

Symptoms may include:

- Red or pink coloring in the white of the eye
- Swelling of the eyelids
- Itchy, watery, or burning eyes
- Yellow or green eye discharge or crusting, especially after sleep
- Sensitivity to light

Our Policy:

If a Camper Has Pink Eye Symptoms:

- They will be removed from group activities and supervised in a comfortable, separate space.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted for immediate pick-up.

Return to Camp Requirements:

- A camper may return to camp:
- 24 hours after starting prescribed antibiotic eye drops for bacterial pink eye
- OR with a note from a healthcare provider stating the camper is not contagious
- OR once symptoms have fully resolved, if the cause is determined to be non-contagious (e.g., allergies)

Please note: For viral pink eye, exclusion may be longer, depending on symptoms and provider guidance.

Siblings Policy:

- Siblings may continue attending camp if they do not have symptoms.
- If a sibling develops symptoms, the same return-to-camp policy applies.

Prevention at Camp:

We reinforce proper hygiene with:

- Frequent handwashing
- No sharing of towels or pillows
- Routine cleaning of surfaces and shared items

What Families Can Do:

- Keep an eye out for early symptoms
- Keep sick children home to prevent spread
- Notify us immediately if your child is diagnosed with pink eye

Thank you for working with us to keep our camp healthy and safe.