

**Children's Health Minute**  
**"Pink Eye"**

**Air Dates: October, 2006**

**Dr. Hellerstedt:** One of the most common and contagious infections among children is named after its most obvious symptom -- pink eye.

Hi, I'm Dr. John Hellerstedt with the Children's Health Minute – connecting families with Children's Medicaid and CHIP.

Its real name is conjunctivitis and it's an infection of the outermost layer of the eye. A virus or bacteria usually causes pink eye. In addition to redness, symptoms can include itching, burning and thick mucus coming from the eye. Pink eye can be very contagious. Good hand washing, and not rubbing the eyes are some of the best ways to avoid pink eye. If you think your child has pink eye, visit your child's doctor. They may prescribe eye drops to fight the infection and soothe your child's eye.

**Announcer:** Health insurance is key to keeping your kids healthy. Call toll-free 1-877-KIDS NOW to apply or when it's time to renew your CHIP or Children's Medicaid. Six months of coverage for all your children costs just 50 dollars or less, but most families pay little or nothing. That's 1-877-KIDS NOW.