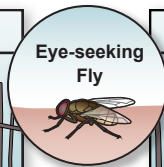
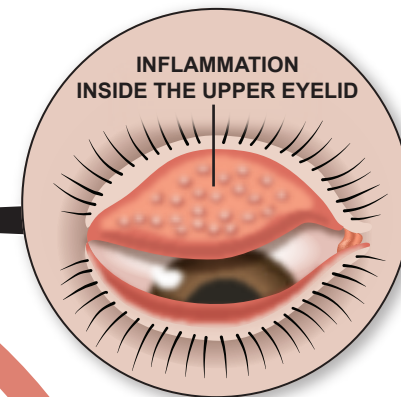


*Musca sorbens* are eye-seeking flies that breed in openly defecated waste.

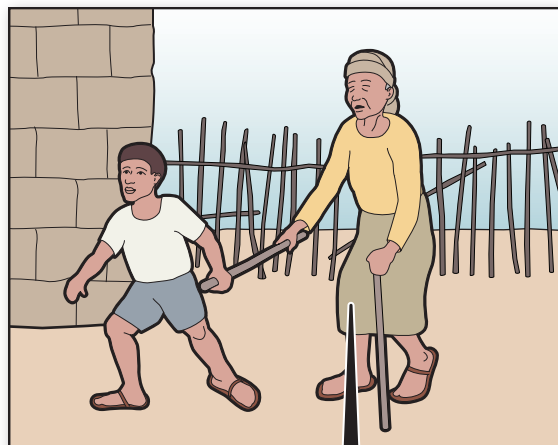


Eye-seeking flies pick up the bacteria from infected individuals and transport it to others.



Infections inflame and thicken the upper eyelid.

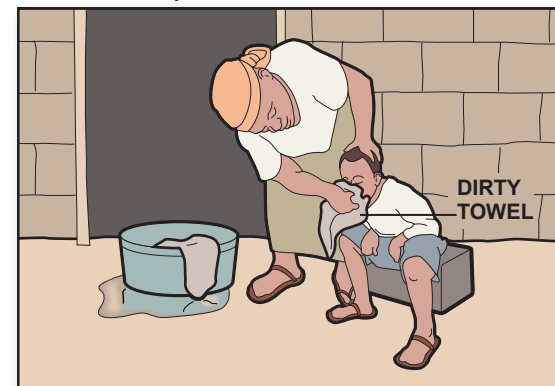
A person blinded by trachoma relies on family and community members for support.



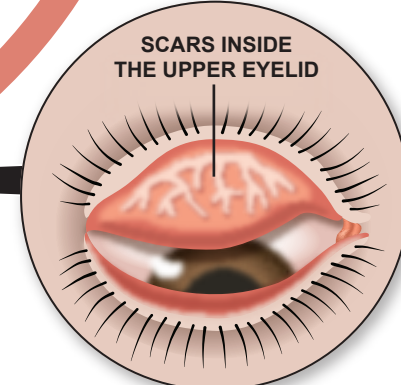
## The Life Cycle of Trachoma

Trachoma is an eye infection caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. The bacterium is spread by direct person-to-person contact, shared cloths and towels, and by eye-seeking flies. Children ages 1-9 years and women harbor the greatest burden of disease. Repeated infections scar the inner eyelid, eventually causing the eyelid to turn inward. Once the eyelid has inverted, the eyelashes scratch the cornea, leading to irreversible blindness.

Unclean hands and contaminated towels and handkerchiefs also spread the bacteria.



Frequent contact with children and flies increase the likelihood of women to be exposed to the disease.



Repeated infections result in scarring, causing the eyelid to turn inward and the eyelashes to touch the eyeball.

The eyelashes scratch the cornea, leading to blindness.

