

EXPOSURE NOTICE* - RINGWORM

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child may have been exposed to RINGWORM.

General information:

Ringworm is a common skin infection that is caused by a fungus. It is not a worm. It has many names, such as “tinea” and “athlete’s foot” (if found on the foot). It can affect any part of the skin, as well as the fingernails or toenails. Anyone can get ringworm, but those with weaker immune systems are at greater risk.

What are the symptoms?

- Rash: a small, flat circle of red skin that is typically ring shaped
- May be itchy, scaly and/or crusty
- Rash will often grow and get larger
- Hair loss, if on scalp
- Cracking or scaling of skin, if on toes

What do I need to do?

- Watch your child for signs and symptoms of the disease for the next several weeks.
- If your child develops symptoms, please call your healthcare provider, inform the school, and keep your child home. *Please follow your healthcare provider’s instructions for home care and to prevent the spread of disease to others.*
- Check your pets for any signs of infection. If you suspect your pet may have ringworm, take it to see a veterinarian.

Please talk to your Family Service Worker if you do not have a regular healthcare provider or health insurance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RINGWORM

How is it spread?

Ringworm is easily spread by contact – by touching the lesion or contaminated objects (floors, towels, hats, combs, etc.). It is contagious until treated for 24 hours of treatment.

How do I prevent this disease?

- Practice good overall hygiene: wash hands often, wash towels and undergarments in hot, soapy water, keep your skin clean and dry, change underwear and socks at least once a day, and regularly clean/disinfect your bathroom.
- Wear shoes that allow for good air circulation.
- Avoid walking barefoot in public showers or gyms.
- Do not share towels, clothing, sheets, sport equipment (helmet, pads, etc.), or other personal items with someone who has ringworm.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after playing with pets. Avoid contact with pets with ringworm infection.

When can someone with ringworm return to school/childcare?

Children with symptoms of ringworm may return to school with a letter from a healthcare provider clearing them to do so, or 24 hours after starting treatment. All lesions should be kept covered.