

Ringworm (Tinea)

Ringworm is not caused by a worm, but by various types of fungi. When found on the body it is called tinea corporis; when on the scalp, tinea capitis; when in the groin, tinea cruris; and when on the feet, tinea pedis (Athlete's Foot). It is a very common infection.

Ringworm begins as a small, red patch or bump that spreads outward, so that each affected area takes on the appearance of a red, scaly, outer ring with a clear central area. Hair may become brittle and break off in gradually spreading areas. Itching sometimes accompanies the infection.

Transmission of ringworm is generally by person-to-person or contaminated article-to person contact. Infected animals may be a source for scalp and body infections, although rarely.

Ringworm is infectious during the duration of skin or scalp lesions and while the fungus persists on contaminated materials.

Refer to licensed health care provider for appropriate diagnosis and treatment of suspected cases.

Encourage the student to keep the affected area covered to minimize transmission.

Instruct students not to share combs, hats, towels, and/or other personal articles.

Ringworm of the body is not particularly dangerous, has no unusual long-term consequences, and can generally be treated quite effectively with locally applied preparations.

[Ringworm Infographic](#)