



## Ringworm

### **CAUSE and DEFINITION:**

Ringworm is a common infection of the skin and nails that is caused by fungus. Ringworm is not a worm. It is called “ringworm” because it can cause an itchy, red, circular rash.

### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

Ringworm can affect skin on almost any part of the body as well as fingernails and toenails. The symptoms of ringworm often depend on which part of the body is infected, but they generally include:

- Itchy skin
- Ring-shaped rash
- Red, scaly, cracked skin, especially on the feet (“Athlete’s Foot”)
- Hair loss

### **INCUBATION / CONTAGION:**

- Symptoms typically appear between 4 and 14 days after the skin comes in contact with the fungi that cause ringworm.
- Ringworm is mildly contagious for as long as the fungus remains present in the lesion. The fungus is no longer present once the lesion has begun to shrink.

### **MODE OF TRANSMISSION & CONTROL:**

The fungi that cause ringworm can live on skin and in the environment. There are three main ways that ringworm can spread:

1. From a person who has ringworm.	2. From an animal that has ringworm.	3. From the environment.
People can get ringworm after contact with someone who has the infection. To avoid spreading the infection, people with ringworm shouldn’t share clothing, towels, combs, or other personal items with other people.	People can get ringworm after touching an animal that has ringworm. Many kinds of animals can spread ringworm to people, including dogs and cats, especially kittens and puppies. Other animals, like cows, goats, pigs, and horses can also spread ringworm to people.	The fungi that cause ringworm can live on surfaces, particularly in damp areas like locker rooms and public showers. For that reason, it’s a good idea not to walk barefoot in these places.

### **HOME MANAGEMENT:**

- Contact your child’s physician for diagnosis and treatment. Treatment is typically an over the counter topical cream or ointment. If your child has ringworm on the scalp, contact your physician as that may require prescription medication.
- Contact your child’s physician if no visible improvement 2 weeks after treatment is started

### **RETURN TO SCHOOL:**

- Once treatment has started.
- Cover with clean bandage or clothing.