

Your child may have been exposed to:

## Ringworm

Ringworm is a fungal infection. It is not a worm. The scalp infection is most common in children. Infection of the feet is more common in adolescents and adults.

### If you think your child has Ringworm:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

#### Childcare and School:

**Yes**, until treatment has been started or if lesion cannot be completely covered. If on the scalp, until 24 hours after treatment has been started.

**Activities:** Limit gym, swimming, and other close contact activities if the lesion cannot be covered or until after treatment has begun.

**Sports:** Athletes follow your healthcare provider's recommendations and the specific sports league rules.

### Prevention

- Wash hands after touching infected skin on humans and pets. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Cover skin lesions.
- Wash bedding, clothing, combs and brushes in hot, soapy water.
- Check all household members and all pets for signs of infection.
- DO NOT let children touch an infected pet's skin until it has been treated and heals.

For more information, call Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) at 573-751-6113 or 866-628-9891 (8-5 Monday thru Friday) or call your local health department.

### Symptoms

**Body** - Flat, spreading, round shapes on the skin. If your child is infected, it may take 4 to 10 days for symptoms to start.

**Scalp** - Begins as a small scaly patch on the scalp and may cover more of the head. Mild redness, swelling, itching, and pustules (pus-filled bumps) may occur. Infected hairs become brittle and break off easily. If your child is infected, it may take 10 to 14 days for symptoms to start.

**Feet (athlete's foot)** - Scaling or cracking of the skin or blisters. Itching is common.

### Spread

- By touching the infected skin of a person or pet (usually, dogs and cats).
- By sharing or touching contaminated objects. Objects

### Contagious Period

As long as you can see the ringworm on your child's skin. Once treatment has begun your child is less contagious.

### Call your Healthcare Provider

- ◆ If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor will decide if treatment is needed. It is important to follow your doctor's treatment directions exactly.
- ◆ If you think a pet has ringworm, call a veterinarian.