

RINGWORM- is a fungal infection where the body, scalp and feet can become infected. It is not a worm.

- **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:** Ringworm is spread by touching the infected skin of a person or pet (usually dogs or cats) or by sharing or touching contaminated objects.
- **CONTAGIOUS PERIOD:** You are contagious as long as you can see the ringworm on your child's skin. Once treatment has begun your child is less contagious. Your child should remain at home for 24 hours after treatment has started and the lesion should be covered if possible. Limit gym, swimming and other close contact activities if the lesion cannot be covered or until after treatment has begun.
- **CALL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER:** Contact your healthcare provider if anyone in your home has symptoms. Your provider will decide if treatment is needed. It is important to follow your provider's treatment directions carefully. Athletes should follow the provider's recommendations and specific sports league rules. If you think a pet has ringworm, call a veterinarian.
- **PREVENTION:** Wash you 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.

Source- Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases: A Guide for School Administrators, Nurses, Teachers, Child Care Providers, and Parents or Guardians; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services-Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention)