

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 72 hours 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 Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

Prepared by Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department (HSPHD)

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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 include hats, clothing, furniture, shower stalls, swimming pool decks, and locker room benches or floors.

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.