

## All About Ringworm

### Cause:

Ringworm is a fungal infection. It is not a worm.

### Symptoms:

- **Body or Scalp:** Round or oval, red, scaly patches on the skin. These patches have raised edges and a clear area in the center.
- **Feet:** Scaling or cracking of the skin or blisters. Itching is common. Also known as Athlete's Foot.
- **The first symptoms** usually appear 4-10 days after contact with the fungi.



### How They Spread:

- Ringworm is spread by direct contact with an infected person or pet, usually dogs and cats.
- It can also be spread by sharing contaminated objects, such as combs and brushes, hats, clothes, or locker room floors.

### Contagious Period:

- Once the treatment has started, the person is no longer contagious. Students may return to school as long as they keep the lesions covered.

### Treatment:

- Ringworm on the body can be treated with an antifungal cream that you put on the rash. Ask your physician or pharmacist to help you choose one for your child. Read and follow the directions on the medicine label.
- Ringworm on the scalp must be treated with an oral antifungal medication prescribed by your physician.

- Keep lesions covered until they are gone.
- Except for a bath, keep your child's skin dry. Wet skin makes the rash worse. Blot lesions dry before applying medication.

### **Control Measures:**

- Parents/guardians should inspect family members, pets and farm animals for possible infection and seek treatment if necessary.
- Wash clothes, bedding and towels in hot water and laundry detergent.

### **Prevention:**

- Hand washing and cleaning under the nails is very important. Teach your child not to share combs, brushes, towels, hats, coats and other personal articles.

***Please report any cases of ringworm to the School Nurse or the office. Thank you!***