

Ringworm

Dear parent or guardian:

Your child recently may have been exposed to **ringworm**. Ringworm is a common fungal infection that may affect the body, feet, or scalp. It gets its name from the ring-shaped rash it causes. If your child has ringworm, they may return to school after they start treatment.

Symptoms

Ringworm commonly affects the hair, skin, or nails. On feet, it is known as athlete's foot. In the groin it's often called jock itch. It causes an itchy ring-shaped rash. On the scalp, it may cause dandruff or hair loss.

Spread

Ringworm spreads through skin-to-skin contact with an infected person's rash. It may also spread on pets or shared objects like:

- Combs.
- Brushes.
- Bike helmets.
- Towels.
- Clothing.
- Bedding.

Diagnosis and treatment

A healthcare provider can diagnose ringworm based on the rash. The healthcare provider may prescribe a treatment or recommend an over-the-counter medicine.

Prevention

To prevent the spread of ringworm:

- Get treatment and cover the rash.
- Don't share items that could spread ringworm.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after applying antifungal ointment.

Learn more

For more info, contact a healthcare provider.