

**NOTIFICATION OF RINGWORM (TINEA)**  
(A fungal infection of the skin, scalp and fingernails)

Incubation period: (the time between exposure to the disease and the appearance of symptoms) Usually 4-10 days when on the skin and 10-14 days after initial contact on the scalp.

Contagious period: (when the disease can be transmitted to another person) This infection can be transmitted as long as the fungus remains on the skin lesion. When the lesion starts to shrink, the child is no longer infectious.

Signs and symptoms: Ringworm of the scalp can have round or irregular shaped, raised areas that can be red or dry and flaky. There may be hair loss at the sight of the rash and there may be black spots caused by hairs that have been broken off.

Ringworm of the skin may start as small, round red spots. As they grow larger, the center begins to clear, creating the appearance of a “ring”. This “ring” may have raised borders that are red and scaly and the rash may itch or burn.

Treatment: If the fungal infection is on the scalp your child may require oral medication. If the skin is the site of the infection you may need to use an anti-fungal cream or ointment. If your child has any skin rash, you should contact your doctor for an evaluation.

How this disease is spread: Ringworm is spread by direct contact with a person or animal infected with the fungus. It can also spread by contact with surfaces contaminated with the fungus; like clothing, towels, combs, or bed linens.

Control of cases: All skin lesions must be covered. If it cannot be covered, the child should be excluded from school until after treatment has started and the lesion has started to shrink. Consult your doctor as soon as possible if you suspect ringworm, because fungi require a long treatment time.

General preventive measures: Teach proper hand washing and dry skin thoroughly after washing. Children and adults should be advised not to share personal items, such as hair care articles, clothes, towels, etc. If there are any animals in the household with a rash they should be evaluated by your veterinarian.