

# RINGWORM PARENT FACT SHEET

## PARENT/GUARDIAN

Your child may have been exposed to: RINGWORM

Ringworm is a fungal skin 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.

### Need to stay home?

Yes, 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.

If you think your child has Ringworm, tell your childcare provider or call the school.

### 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 but are not limited to: hats, clothing, furniture, shower stalls, swimming pool decks, and locker room benches or floors.

### Contagious Period

A person is contagious as long as you can see the ringworm on their 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 necessary. It is important to follow your doctor's treatment directions exactly.
- If you think a pet has ringworm, call a veterinarian.

## Prevention

- Wash hands after touching infected skin on pets and humans. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Cover skin lesions.
- Wash bedding, clothing, combs, and brushes, etc. in hot, soapy water.
- Check all household members and all pets for signs or infection.
- DO NOT let children touch an infected pet's skin until it has been treated and heals.

For more information, please contact your local health department.

[Carson City Health & Human Services](#) (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon Counties) 775-434-1690 & 775-887-2190 (after hours)

[Central Nevada Health District](#) (Churchill, Mineral, Eureka, Pershing Counties) 775-866-7535

[Northern Nevada Public Health](#) (Washoe County) 775-328-2447 (24 hours)

[Southern Nevada Health District](#) (Clark County) 775-759-1300 (24 hours)

[Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#) (All other Counties) 775-400-0333 (24 hours)

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