

**Minneapolis Public Schools  
Health Related Services**



**Ringworm**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A case of ringworm has been identified and treated in your child's classroom. Properly treated cases are no longer infectious. However, we want to make you aware of the following:

**Cause:** Ringworm is a fungal infection. It is not a worm.

**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.

**Exclusion: Need to stay home?**

**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.

Report cases to the school health office. For more information, call Hennepin County Epidemiology at 612-543-5230.