

RINGWORM

Tinea, more commonly known as ringworm, is a fungal infection of the skin that can be transmitted by close contact with infected persons, animals (including household pets), or soil. It may involve the scalp, body, feet, and groin. It usually starts as a tiny red spot that grows outward in a circular fashion, with a clear center. The edges are red and scaly. If it affects the scalp, hair loss may occur in the affected area. Some children develop itching from an allergic response to the fungus. Scratching can cause a secondary bacterial infection.

Contagiousness:

All tinea infections are transmissible as long as the fungus is present in the infected area. Viable fungus may persist on contaminated materials for long periods.

Tinea Capitis (ringworm of the scalp) is transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact especially from the backs of theater seats, shared personal items (such as combs and hairbrushes) or clothing and hats contaminated with hair from infected persons or animals.

Tinea Corporis (ringworm of the body) is transmitted by direct or indirect contact with skin and scalp lesions of infected persons; lesions of animals; contaminated floors, shower stalls, benches, and towels, bedding, clothing, and similar objects.

Treatment:

Ringworm of the scalp treatment consists of oral medication prescribed by a health care provider. Ringworm on other parts of the body may be treated by over-the-counter antifungal creams (Lotrimin, Micotin, or Tinactin) at least twice a day. If unresponsive, prescription creams and/or oral medication from your health care provider will be needed.

School Exclusion Guidelines:

The student should be excluded from school until **24 hours of drug therapy has been completed**. The infected area should be covered while the student is at school. During treatment the student should be excluded from the gym and swimming pools.

Prevention:

- Keep the environment as clean, dry and cool as possible since ringworm fungi grow easily on moist, warm surfaces.
- Follow general cleanliness and hand washing guidelines.

Keep affected areas of the body loosely covered with gauze, bandage, or clothing to prevent shedding of infected scales.