



PINWORMS

What are pinworms?

- Pinworms are an intestinal disorder caused by a parasite called *Enterobius vermicularis* (EN-ter-O-be-us ver-MIK-u-lar-is) that invades and lives there.

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Some people have no symptoms
- Itching around the anus
- Disturbed sleep
- Irritability
- Symptoms caused by female laying her eggs

How is it spread?

- By ingesting the eggs by hand from the anus to the mouth of yourself or another person
- Eggs can survive in the environment for up to 2 weeks
- Symptoms begin two to six weeks after exposure
- A person is contagious as long as eggs are being laid

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation
- All household members are treated with a prescription medication

How can pinworms be prevented?

- Trim fingernails short
- Wash hands frequently, especially before eating and after using the restroom
- Avoid scratching rectal area
- Keep fingers out of mouth

Should the sick child be isolated?

- No

When can the child return to day care or school?

- May return after first treatment dose upon recommendation of primary care provider

Should schools do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-3612

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.