



## **RINGWORM**

### **What is ringworm?**

- Ringworm is a skin and scalp disease caused by different types of fungi. Common places for ringworm to appear are feet (Athlete's feet), groin (jock itch), scalp, face or body

### **What are symptoms that could occur?**

- Round patch of red, dry skin with a red raised ring around the "patch"
- Sometimes the ring has blisters or is crusted with water or pus filled blisters
- Hair in ring is broken or absent
- As the patch spreads, the skin in the center may appear clear

### **How is it spread?**

- Direct contact with a ringworm "patch"
- Using an infected person's clothing, towels (combs, brushes)
- Walking barefoot on contaminated floors
- Ringworm appears 4-14 days after exposure
- Direct contact with puppies or kittens who have ringworm

### **How is it diagnosed and treated?**

- Primary care provider evaluation
- Treated with topical or oral medication
- Scalp ringworm is treated with Griseofulvin by mouth

### **How can ringworm be prevented?**

- Wash your hands if you touch a ringworm "patch"
- Do not use other people's clothing or hygiene articles
- Do not walk barefoot in public places
- Dry feet, especially between the toes, after bathing or swimming
- Clean floors in public areas with antifungal disinfectant
- Do not participate in contact sports without wearing shoes and socks

### **Should the sick child be isolated?**

- No, except from showers and pools

### **When can the child return to day care or school?**

- After 24 hours of treatment or as directed by physician with skin covered
- After starting Griseofulvin by mouth

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**Should schools do special cleaning?**

- Objects in contact with ringworm should be cleaned with an approved antifungal disinfectant

**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.

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