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## Ringworm

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**Description:** Ringworm is a fungus infection that lives on the skin, scalp or feet (athlete's foot).

**Symptoms:** Symptoms include scaly patches of temporary baldness (ringworm of the scalp), flat inflamed ring-like rash that may itch or burn (ringworm of the skin) and scaling or cracking of the skin (ringworm of the feet).

**How it is Spread:** It is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact with an infected person or indirect contact through objects such as combs, locker rooms and showers contaminated by infected persons or animals.

**Incubation Period:** 10-14 days for the skin; 4-10 days for the body.

**How Long Can a Person Pass the Infection to Others?** The infection can be spread to others as long as rash/sores are present and have not been treated with the appropriate medication.

**Responsibilities of Parents and Caregivers:**

- Ask parents to notify caregiver of illness.
- Notify parents if contacts develop symptoms.

**Control of Spread:**

- Exclude until 24 hours of appropriate treatment is complete.
- Follow policies for cleaning and sanitizing.
- Don't share grooming/personal items such as combs.
- Advise parents that family members and pets may need to be treated.
- Do not cut child's hair or make him wear a cap during treatment.
- Exclude from activities that involve direct skin-to-skin contact (contact sports) or swimming until the lesions are gone.

**Treatment:** Antifungal medication prescribed by a physician.