



Dear Parent/Guardian:

There has been a case of ringworm diagnosed in your child's classroom. This letter is to inform you of the facts about ringworm.

Ringworm is a common skin infection, especially among children, but it may affect people of all ages. Although its name suggests otherwise, it is caused by a fungus, not a worm. Ringworm occurs when a particular type of fungus grows and multiplies anywhere on your skin, scalp, or nails.

**Ringworm is contagious.** It can be spread from one person to the next by direct skin-to-skin contact or by contact with contaminated items such as combs, unwashed clothing, and shower or pool surfaces. You can also get ringworm from pets that carry the fungus.

The symptoms of ringworm include:

- Itchy, red, raised rash. The patches often have sharply-defined edges.
- It is often a circular rash with the appearance of a ring. The skin may also appear unusually dark or light.
- When your scalp or beard are infected, you may have bald patches.
- If nails are infected, they become discolored, thick, and even crumble.

You should contact your child's physician if the above symptoms are noticed. Good hygiene measures, like frequent hand washing, washing contaminated surfaces and clothing are the **best** way to lower your child's risk and spread of infection. Please notify the school if your child has been diagnosed with ringworm.

Children with active ringworm infection should be excluded from contact sports or swimming until treatment has been initiated and may return to school 24 hours after treatment was started. The classroom is being cleaned and doing what is appropriate to prevent the spread of the disease.

If you would like more information please go to the following websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/diseasesconditions/>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/ringworm.html>

Thank you for your cooperation.