



2096 Red Arrow Trail  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-275-6740

## Ringworm (Tinea)

### Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

Dear Parents:

Your child may have been exposed to the communicable disease **ringworm (Tinea)** in a Reach Dane/Reach Green classroom on the following date\_\_\_\_\_.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions, or if your child begins experiencing symptoms of the illness, contact your child's primary care provider or one of the agencies listed below.

Public Health – Madison & Dane County

(608) 266-4821

Green County Health Department

(608) 328-9390

#### **What is ringworm?**

Ringworm is infection of the skin caused by several types of fungi. The scalp, feet, groin, fingernails or toenails can also be affected.

#### **What are the symptoms of ringworm?**

Ringworm of the body usually consists of a flat, round-like lesion, the edge of which may be dry and scaly or moist and crusted. As the lesion expands, the center portion often clears to a normal appearance. Ringworm of the scalp typically begins as a small pimple that expands with time, leaving scaly patches of temporary baldness. Infected hairs become brittle and break off easily. Occasionally, raised moist and draining lesions can occur. When finger/toe nails are affected, the nails become thickened, discolored, and brittle, or they may become chalky and disintegrate with time.

#### **How does a person get ringworm?**

Ringworm is spread by direct contact with a person infected with the fungus. It can also be spread indirectly through contact with articles (such as combs or clothing) or surfaces which have been contaminated with the fungus. A child with ringworm is infectious as long as the fungus remains present in the skin lesion. The fungus is no longer present when the lesion starts to shrink.

#### **How long does it take to develop ringworm following exposure?**

Ringworm of the body appears approximately 4-10 days after the infection has been acquired, while ringworm of the scalp may take about 10-14 days to become apparent.

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#### **How is ringworm treated?**

Antifungal ointment applied to the skin or oral antifungal drugs can be used to treat ringworm of the body. Ringworm of the scalp or nails requires prolonged treatment with oral antifungal drugs. Your health care provider can advise you on treatment options.

#### **How long is a child with ringworm excluded from childcare?**

Children may return to the classroom when antifungal treatment has been initiated OR if infected lesions can be covered.

#### **How can I limit the spread of ringworm?**

All children and adults should practice good hand washing technique. Persons with ringworm symptoms should seek prompt medical care. Sharing of bed linen, towels, clothing, hats, hair combs and other personal articles should be discouraged. Infected lesions should be covered at all times. During the time when active lesions are present on exposed areas of the body, activities involving close physical contact with others should be limited. Towels, bed linen, and clothing used by infected persons should be thoroughly laundered. Young children who are infected should minimize close contact with other children until effectively treated. In cases of ringworm of the scalp, daily shampooing will help remove loose hairs that may be infective. Persons with severe cases should wear caps to cover their hair. The caps should be disinfected after use by boiling. Hair brushes, combs, rollers, and other barber implements should not be shared and should be sterilized after use.