

Ringworm

School Name
School Nurse Name
Phone Number
Date

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is to inform you that there has been a case of ringworm identified at the school. For confidentiality purposes, no further details can be provided regarding the case but you are receiving this letter because your child may have been exposed and it's important to monitor them closely for any symptoms. Ringworm is typically not dangerous and the following information is for your reference.

What is ringworm? Ringworm is a fungal skin infection that is not caused by worms. Also called tinea infections, ringworm causes mild, irritating skin rashes. Depending on the area of the body affected, it may also be called by other names including athlete's foot or jock itch.

What are the symptoms? The first symptoms of ringworm are red, scaly patches. Over time, the patches can grow into oval or round shaped lesions that are itchy and uncomfortable. Symptoms most typically appear 4–14 days after an exposure.

How is it treated? If you suspect your child may have ringworm, contact their pediatrician for an appropriate treatment plan. Depending on the area of the body affected, treatment can range from an over-the-counter antifungal cream to, in the case of ringworm on the scalp, prescribed oral antifungals.

What are the risks? Serious complications are rare but anyone with suspected or confirmed ringworm should be under the care of a licensed healthcare provider.

How does it spread? Ringworm is spread by direct contact with an infected individual or pet, as well as through contaminated surfaces, particularly in damp places like locker rooms and public showers. It is important to note that ringworm from pets is not passed from human to human, only from animal to human.

How long should children with ringworm stay away from school? Children with ringworm can attend school as long as treatment has been started and when possible, affected areas covered. Further exclusion criteria may apply for sports and activities.

What should you do now? Monitor your child closely for symptoms and contact your pediatrician and school nurse if you suspect an infection. To help prevent spread, encourage good hand washing habits and discourage kids from walking barefoot in locker rooms and sharing personal items like towels and clothing.

Thank you for your careful attention to the information in this notice and for your diligence in helping to keep our school community as safe and healthy as possible. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the school nurse with any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

School Nurse Name