

RINGWORM



Fact Sheet

Ringworm is an infection of the skin and nails that is caused by fungus. The condition is also known as “tinea” or “dermatophytosis.” There are approximately 40 different species of fungi that can cause ringworm, and they are usually named for the location of the infection on the body. For example, Tinea Capitis refers to ringworm on the head, and Tineas Corporis refers to ringworm on the body.

SYMPTOMS:

- Ring shaped rash/sores.
- The border of the rash is often red with a lighter skin tone in the middle, resulting in a ring.
- Red, scaly cracked skin.
- Usually itchy.
- Hair loss, if ringworm is on the scalp.

Symptoms usually appear between 4 and 14 days after the skin comes in contact with the fungi that cause ringworm.

See your health care provider for symptoms that are severe or do not get better.

If you would like to learn more about this, and other communicable diseases, go to <http://www.cdc.gov>.

This fact sheet was created by the Health Services Department of Beaverton School District and has been approved by the Washington County Health Department, Disease Control and Prevention Program.

HOW TO PREVENT

GETTING AND SPREADING

RINGWORM:

- Keep your skin clean and dry.
- Wear shoes that allow air to circulate around your feet.
- Don't walk barefoot in areas like locker rooms or public showers.
- Keep fingernails and toenails short and clean.
- Change your underwear and socks at least once a day.
- Don't share clothing, towels, brushes or personal items.
- Those involved in close contact sports should shower after playing and keep all sports gear / uniforms clean.
- Wash your hands frequently, especially after playing with pets.
- If you think your pet has ringworm, consult a veterinarian for treatment. People with weakened immune systems should not touch pets with a known ringworm infection.

Ringworm is typically treated with antifungal lotions or creams, but additional medication may be necessary.



Ringworm is not caused by a worm as the name suggests. The infection is called ringworm because it appears as a red ring on the skin.

Ringworm can easily be transferred from animals to humans. Cats are common carriers.