

## RINGWORM (TINEA)

Ringworm is a fungal infection that can affect the body, scalp or hair.

**CAUSE:** A fungus

**SYMPTOMS:** **Body:** Ringworm appears as flat, spreading ring-shaped lesions. The edge of the lesion may be dry and scaly or moist and crusted. As the lesion spreads outward, the center often becomes clear.

**Scalp:** Ringworm may be hard to detect in the early stages. It often begins as a small scaly patch on the scalp. Mild redness and swelling may occur. Infected hairs become brittle and break off easily leaving scaly patches of temporary baldness.

**SPREAD:** By direct contact with lesions of infected persons or pets, or from contaminated objects. To prevent spread of infection, children should not share hats, combs, towels, clothing or personal items that may be contaminated.

**INCUBATION:** The incubation period is unknown.

**CONTAGIOUS PERIOD:** Contagious as long as infected lesions are present, especially when untreated. Communicability is greatly reduced once treatment has begun. While under treatment, infected children should be excluded from gymnasiums, swimming pools, and activities likely to lead to exposure of others. The fungus can live on contaminated objects for long periods of time.



Until 24 hours after treatment has been started and the lesion has started to shrink.



1. Antifungal ointments are often used for treating ringworm. Oral medications may also be necessary when infection of the hair or scalp is more severe.
2. Household contacts, including pets, should be checked for signs of infection. If you suspect ringworm in your household members, contact your physician so that treatment can be started as soon as possible.

3. Towels and clothing should be washed in hot water and/or a fungicidal agent.
4. Observe good handwashing technique among all children and adults.
5. Disinfect bathroom surfaces and sanitize toys daily.



**1. Bleach Disinfectant**

- 1/4 cup bleach in a gallon of water
- 1 tablespoon bleach in a quart of water

PREPARE FRESH SOLUTION DAILY.

OR

**2. Commercial disinfectant that is EPA approved**

FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.



**1. Bleach Sanitizer (Use non-scented)**

- 1 teaspoons bleach in 1 gallon water
- 1/4 teaspoon bleach in 1 quart water

Use test strip to check concentration. Do not rinse. Air dry.

PREPARE FRESH SOLUTION DAILY.

OR

**2. Commercial or food grade sanitizer that is EPA approved**

FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.



For more information, you or your physician may call the Douglas County Health Department at 444-7241 or your local health department.