Your child may have been exposed to:

Ringworm

Ringworm is a fungal infection. It is not a worm. The scalp infection is most common in children. Infection of the feet is more common in adolescents and adults.

If you think your child has Ringworm:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

  Childcare and School:

  Yes, until treatment has been started or if lesion cannot be completely covered. If on the scalp, until 24 hours after treatment has been started.

  Activities: Limit gym, swimming, and other close contact activities if the lesion cannot be covered or until after treatment has begun.

  Sports: Athletes follow your healthcare provider's recommendations and the specific sports league rules.

Symptoms

Body - Flat, spreading, round shapes on the skin. If your child is infected, it may take 4 to 10 days for symptoms to start.

Scalp - Begins as a small scaly patch on the scalp and may cover more of the head. Mild redness, swelling, itching, and pustules (pus-filled bumps) may occur. Infected hairs become brittle and break off easily. If your child is infected, it may take 10 to 14 days for symptoms to start.

Feet (athlete's foot) - Scaling or cracking of the skin or blisters. Itching is common.

Spread

- By touching the infected skin of a person or pet (usually, dogs and cats).
- By sharing or touching contaminated objects. Objects

Contagious Period

As long as you can see the ringworm on your child's skin. Once treatment has begun your child is less contagious.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor will decide if treatment is needed. It is important to follow your doctor's treatment directions exactly.
- If you think a pet has ringworm, call a veterinarian.

Prevention

- Wash hands after touching infected skin on humans and pets. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Cover skin lesions.
- Wash bedding, clothing, combs and brushes in hot, soapy water.
- Check all household members and all pets for signs of infection.
- DO NOT let children touch an infected pet's skin until it has been treated and heals.

For more information, call Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) at 573-751-6113 or 866-628-9891 (8-5 Monday thru Friday) or call your local health department.