



Ringworm

Definition

- [Fungal skin infection](#) causing 1 or more ring-shaped spots

Symptoms

- Round pink patch
- Clearing of the center as the patch grows
- Raised, rough, scaly border
- Usually ½ to 1 inch (12 -25 mm) in size
- Ring slowly increases in size
- Mildly itchy

Cause

- A fungus infection of the skin often transmitted from puppies or kittens who have it.
- Less commonly transmitted human-to-human because it requires direct skin contact. An exception is that an epidemic from ringworm can occur among [wrestlers](#) because of close body contact during matches.
- Occasionally transmitted from fungus in the soil.

Return to School

- Your child doesn't have to miss any child care or school for ringworm.

Care Advice

1. Antifungal Cream:
 - a. Use Lamisil, Micatin or Lotrimin cream (no prescription needed) 2 times per day.
 - b. Apply it to the rash and 1 inch beyond its borders.
 - c. Continue the cream for at least 7 days after the rash is cleared.
2. Contagiousness:
 - a. Your child doesn't have to miss any day care or school for ringworm.
 - b. Ringworm of the skin is [mildly contagious](#). It requires direct skin-to-skin contact.
 - c. The type acquired from pets is not transmitted from human to human, only from animal to human.

- d. After 48 hours of treatment, ringworm is not contagious at all.
 - e. Wrestlers, however, should avoid all wrestling until evaluated by your child's doctor
3. Expected Course: It clears completely in 3 to 4 weeks. For any recurrences, suspect the household puppy or kitten and take it to the vet for diagnosis and treatment.

When To Call

Call Your Doctor Within 24 Hours (between 8 am and 4 pm) If

- Pus is draining from the rash

Call Your Doctor During Weekday Office Hours If

- You think your child needs to be seen
- Scalp is involved
- More than 3 spots are present
- Teen is a wrestler
- Rash continues to spread after 1 week on treatment
- Rash lasts longer than 4 weeks
- You have other questions or concerns

Adapted from The American Academy of Pediatrics (2011) at www.healthychildren.org