

Parent Home Care Information Sheet Ringworm

Your child has a rash, which may be ringworm. The instructions below may help you handle this health problem at home.

- Ringworm is not a worm. It is an infection caused by a fungus.
- Ringworm on the body can be treated with an anti-fungal cream that you put on the rash. Ask your pharmacist to help you choose one for your child. Read and follow the directions on the medicine label.
- Do not allow your child to let others wear his or her clothes or hats unless the clothes are first washed in hot water and dried in a dryer.
- Do not share combs, brushes, hats, hair clips or barrettes with your child or other people in the household.
- Except for a bath, keep your child's skin dry. Wet skin makes the rash worse.
- After two days of treatment, the infection is no longer contagious. Check with your child's school to see when your child can return. Ringworm is almost always caught from another person.
- Ringworm can be caught from a cat or dog. If you have a pet, have a veterinarian check your animal for ringworm and tell you how to take care of your pet.
- If the rash does not get better after two weeks of treatment, or if the rash spreads to your child's scalp, take your child to his or her doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Ringworm of scalp requires treatment with an oral anti-fungal medication that can be prescribed by your child's doctor or nurse practitioner.

Information from DHEC's Child Care and School Exclusion Lists:

- Children with ringworm of the scalp must remain out of childcare or school until they have begun treatment with a prescription oral anti-fungal medication. Your child may return with a medical note.
- Children with ringworm of the body may return with a parent note once they have begun oral or topical anti-fungal treatment, unless the affected area can be completely covered by clothing.
- Children with ringworm should not participate in close contact PE or sports activities.

More information about the Child Care Exclusion List can be found at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/2006-2007_Childcare_Exclusion_List.pdf

More information about the School Exclusion List can be found at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/>