



What is ringworm?

- A skin and scalp disease caused by different types of fungi. Common places for ringworm to appear are feet (Athlete's feet), groin (jock itch), scalp, or body. Anyone can become infected at any age.

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Round patch of red, dry skin with a red raised ring around the "patch"
- Sometimes the ring has blisters or is crusted with water or pus filled blisters
- Hair in ring is broken or absent
- As the patch spreads, the skin in the center may appear clear

How is it spread?

- Direct contact with a ringworm "patch"
- Using an infected person's clothing, towels (combs, brushes)
- Walking barefoot on contaminated floors
- Direct contact with puppies or kittens who have ringworm

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation
- Treated with over-the-counter antifungals that contain miconazole, clotrimazole, or similar ingredients
- Scalp ringworm is treated with Griseofulvin by mouth

How can ringworm be prevented?

- Wash your hands if you touch a ringworm "patch"
- Do not use other people's clothing or hygiene articles
- Do not walk barefoot in public places
- Dry feet, especially between the toes, after bathing or swimming
- Clean floors in public areas with antifungal disinfectant
- Do not participate in contact sports without wearing shoes and socks

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- No, except from showers and pools

When can the individual return to the general population?

- After 24 hours of treatment or as directed by physician with skin covered
- After starting Griseofulvin by mouth

Should facilities do special cleaning?

- Objects in contact with ringworm should be cleaned with an approved antifungal disinfectant

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 810-257-1017