

County of Santa Clara
Public Health Department



Communicable Disease Prevention and Control
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EXPOSURE NOTICE: RINGWORM

Date Issued: _____

Dear Parent, Legal Guardian, or Staff,

Students and staff may have been recently exposed to **ringworm**. We are providing the information below so you know what steps you can take to protect yourself and others. This information does not replace talking with your doctor if you become sick. ***If you or your child have symptoms, please seek diagnosis and treatment from a healthcare provider as soon as possible.***

RINGWORM: Ringworm is a common infection of the skin and nails that is caused by fungus. The infection is called “ringworm” because it can cause an itchy, red, circular rash. It can be treated with antifungal medicine.

What are the symptoms? The symptoms of ringworm often depend on which part of the body is infected, but they generally include itchy skin, ring-shaped rash, red scaly cracked skin, and hair loss. Areas of the body that may be affected include the scalp, feet, groin, and toenails or fingernails.

How is it spread? Through direct skin-to-skin contact with a person or animal with ringworm or by touching items that have the fungus on them, such as combs, bedding, and/or clothing. Spread can occur in damp areas such as locker rooms and public showers. For that reason, it’s a good idea not to walk barefoot in these places.

When do symptoms start? 4 to 14 days after exposure to the fungus.

Do staff or children need to stay home if symptoms develop? Yes. However, the child or staff member may stay until the end of the program or school day.

When can staff or children go back to work, school, or childcare? The child or staff member can return when antifungal treatment has started and they meet school or childcare’s readmission criteria.

For additional information, visit [cdc.gov/ringworm/about](https://www.cdc.gov/ringworm/about).