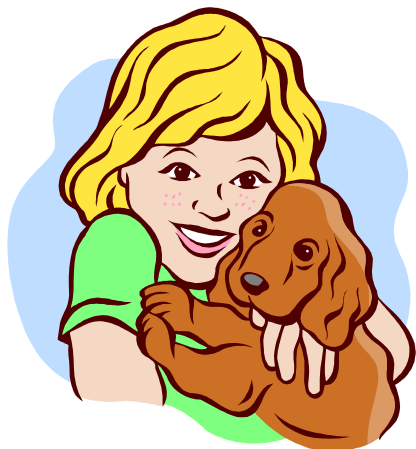


What about staying away from school or preschool?

Children may attend school or preschool once they are receiving treatment.



Do you require further information?

For further information contact:

- Your local doctor or practice nurse
- Your local Public Health Nurse
- Communicable Diseases at Community and Public Health

Other resources available on childhood infections:

- Rotavirus
- Impetigo
- Hand, foot and mouth disease
- Slapped Cheek
- Conjunctivitis
- Threadworms

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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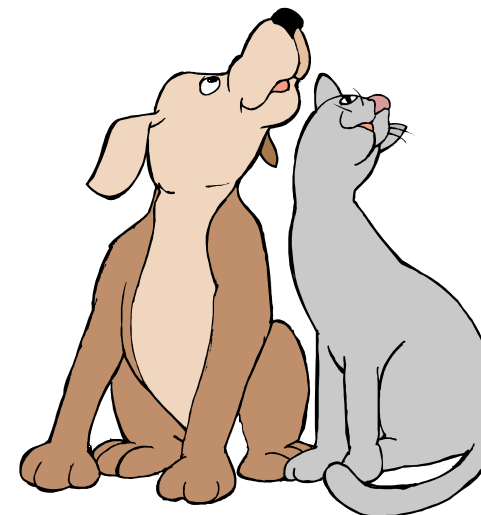
Communicable Diseases
Community and Public Health

(a division of the Canterbury District Health Board)
June 2010

Code/Reference: MED0045

Authorised By: Resource Approval Panel

Ringworm



Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

What is Ringworm?

Ringworm (also known as tinea) is an infection caused by a species of fungus which may affect skin or hair. Infections are very common.

Ringworm may appear anywhere on the body. It may be itchy and tends to spread from the centre which clears, leaving a ring-shaped sore.

What are the symptoms?

Scalp ringworm

Appears as small bald patches with hair loss and some scaling. It can also be wet and crusty.

The time between coming into contact with the fungus and sores developing is usually **10-14** days.

Body ringworm

Appears as round sores with a red, scaly edge raised above the surrounding skin. The rash can be dry and scaly, or wet and crusty.

The time between coming into contact with the fungus and sores developing is usually **4-10** days.

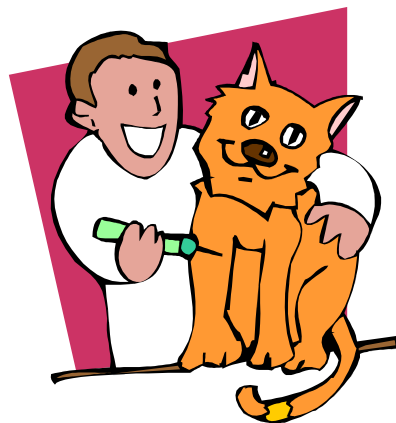
How is it caught?

By direct or indirect contact with skin sores of infected people or contaminated floors, shower stalls or other articles used by infected people or animals.

A person is infectious for as long as the sores are present and fungus remains on contaminated articles.

How is it treated?

Your Public Health Nurse, Chemist or GP may be able to tell you if it is Ringworm. Antifungal creams are available — follow the instructions on the packet and/or the advice of your chemist or doctor.



How is spread prevented?

- Cover the lesions
- Don't share other people's footwear, towels, flannels, combs and hats etc.
- Wash bedding, towels and clothes with hot water and detergent
- Regularly clean the shower and/or bath with bleach or fungicide
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water
- Check pets for hairless, circular scaly patches on the skin, especially round the head or neck
- Seek treatment for infections
- **Do not scratch** — this may cause added infection and spread