Dear parent or guardian:

Your child recently may have been exposed to **ringworm.** Ringworm is a common fungal infection that may affect the body, feet, or scalp. It gets its name from the ring-shaped rash it causes. If your child has ringworm, they may return to school after they start treatment.

# Symptoms

Ringworm commonly affects the hair, skin, or nails. On feet, it is known as athlete’s foot. In the groin it’s often called jock itch. It causes an itchy ring-shaped rash. On the scalp, it may cause dandruff or hair loss.

# Spread

Ringworm spreads through skin-to-skin contact with an infected person’s rash. It may also spread on pets or shared objects like:

* Combs.
* Brushes.
* Bike helmets.
* Towels.
* Clothing.
* Bedding.

# Diagnosis and treatment

A healthcare provider can diagnose ringworm based on the rash. The healthcare provider may prescribe a treatment or recommend an over-the-counter medicine.

# Prevention

To prevent the spread of ringworm:

* Get treatment and cover the rash.
* Don't share items that could spread ringworm.
* Wash your hands thoroughly after applying antifungal ointment.

# Learn more

For more info, contact a healthcare provider.