

Ringworm

Ringworm is a fungus that infects the skin. (Ringworm is not caused by a worm, as some people think!) Ringworm is contagious, can be spread by skin-to-skin contact with others who have the infection, and sometimes by animals who have the infection. Ringworm can also be spread by sharing towels, clothing, or sports gear.

Ringworm rash is a ring-shaped lesion with a central clear area. It is itchy. More than one lesion can be present. Most ringworm can be treated at home with over-the-counter antifungal cream (Lamasil®, Micatin®, Tinactin® and Lotramin® creams are most common), two times per day. Apply antifungal cream to the rash and 1 inch beyond its borders, for at least seven days or until the rash is cleared. The lesions may take weeks to clear with antifungal cream treatment. When ringworm lesions are resistant to topical at-home treatment, and when ringworm lesion appears on the scalp, an oral anti-fungal treatment may be prescribed.

Since ringworm is a fungal infection, antibiotics are not used to treat it. If your child has ringworm, he does not need to be kept out of school or daycare. To prevent this infection, do not share clothing, towels, sports gear, or sheets with others. If your child has ringworm, wash clothes and bedclothes in hot water.

WHEN TO CALL:

- If the ringworm lesion is not responding to anti-fungal treatment at home after 2 weeks, or if new lesions continue to appear despite the treatment
- If a suspected ringworm lesion starts to look infected (redness of the skin spreading away from the lesion, particularly in a streaking fashion, or pus formation within the lesion)
- If your child has ringworm on the scalp



Rockcastle Pediatrics & Adolescents

Dr. Callie Shaffer

Dr. Sarah Oliver

140A Newcomb Avenue, First floor

Mt. Vernon, Kentucky 40456

Phone: (606) 256-4148, option 1