

Date

To Parents/Guardians:

Your child may have been exposed to **Ringworm** at school. Ringworm is a skin infection caused by a fungus and can affect the scalp, fingers, toe nails or foot.

Common signs and symptoms:

- Itchy, red, raised, scaly patches that may blister and ooze. The patches often have sharply-defined edges. They are often redder around the outside with normal skin tone in the center. This may create the appearance of a ring. Your skin may also appear unusually dark or light.
- When your scalp or beard is infected, you will have bald patches.
- If nails are infected, they become discolored, thick, and even crumble.

Ringworm of the scalp begins as a small pimple and becomes larger and more scaly (small bald patches may occur). On the body, the infection appears as a flat, red edged round area. It may appear either dry or scaly or moist and crusted. As it spreads, the center area clears and appears normal. Ringworm of the foot appears scaly with cracked skin, especially between the toes. If fingernails are infected, they become thicker, discolored and break easily.

Ringworm is spread by skin to skin contact with infected people or pets or indirectly by contact with infected items (e.g., hair clippers), shower stalls or floors.

If you suspect that your child has ringworm, you need to take your child to the doctor or healthcare provider. Medicine is needed for the treatment of ringworm.

To prevent the spread of infection, towels, hats and clothing should not be shared.

Please notify the School Office at _____ if your child becomes ill with ringworm or if you have any questions or concerns. Further information can be found on www.nlm.nih.gov.

Sincerely,