

# Ringworm Notification

On \_\_\_\_\_ a child in this childcare center was diagnosed with **ringworm**.

**What is it?** Ringworm is a fungal infection that grows on the outer layer of skin, hair, or nails. It is spread through direct contact with the fungus by touching the infected area then touching your own skin. It can also be spread through indirect contact through articles of clothing or surfaces that are contaminated. The same fungus can be spread from animals to people.

## What to watch for?

- On the skin, a reddish ring-like rash that may itch or burn.
- On the scalp, flaky patches of baldness.
- Areas may be dry and scaly or moist and crusted.
- Hair on the scalp may have flakes that look like dandruff.

## How to prevent it?

- **Good hand washing.**
- Teach children not to play with animals that have bald spots on their coats.
- Don't share hats, combs, or brushes.

## What can we do at home?

- Use a nonprescription anti-fungal powder or lotion for 1 to 2 weeks after symptoms clear up to prevent recurrence.
- Do not use hydrocortisone cream on a fungal infection.

## When do we call a doctor?

- If signs of infection are present; such as pain swelling, heat, redness, or tenderness, red streaks extending from affected area, discharge of pus, or fever >100 degrees.
- Sudden loss of patches of hair associated with flaking, broken hairs, and inflammation of the scalp.

## When can my child return to the center?

- If you can cover the lesion or treatment has begun and the lesion is shrinking.