

Ringworm (Tinea)



Cause



- caused by a fungus and can occur anywhere on the body (including the scalp) and may cause patchy hair loss
- transmission occurs by direct contact with an infected person or animal or a contaminated surface

Symptoms



- itchy, scaly skin lesions, often with well defined edges
- may be hair loss in areas of lesions

Treatment



- often treated with oral anti-fungal medications (prescription)
- for true infections ointments are often not effective

Work Restrictions



- **If symptomatic or infected**, lesions must be covered with dressings while at work. If lesions cannot be covered or are present on hands/forearms, staff providing patient care may be temporarily reassigned. **Contact Occupational Health.**
- **If exposed to Ringworm** (including family members), there are no work restrictions or modification of work practices.

Prevention



- frequent hand washing and good hand hygiene practices
- launder towels and clothing of infected person with hot water and/or fungicidal agent if in contact with ringworm
- Use flip-flops or sandals while showering in public showers, and avoid contact with surfaces as much as possible