

# **RINGWORM OF THE SKIN**

(Tinea corporis)

**IMMUNIZATION:** None.

**INCUBATION PERIOD:** 4-10 days. The condition may persist and recur for many years.

**SYMPTOMS:** Small, reddish, itchy, scaly patches that gradually expand outward, clearing in the middle, forming a flat, spreading ring-shaped lesion with scaling margins and clear centers. New lesions may form in the middle of an expanding ring. Usually appear as a single lesion.

**PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY:** As long as active lesions are present.

**MODE OF TRANSMISSION:** Direct skin-to-skin contact, or indirect contact from contaminated articles such as brushes, combs, clothing, towels, bedding and pillows. Dogs, cats, and cattle may harbor the organism.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:** Exclude until effective treatment is started. Usually treated with antifungal topical creams or ointments. In severe cases, may require oral prescription medication.

**CONTACTS/FOLLOW-UP:** Watch for development of infection in other children and caregivers who provide direct, physical care to young children. Parents should be notified that there has been a case or cases of ringworm, and advised to watch for the development of symptoms. If found, they should seek medical attention for diagnosis and treatment. Infected children should be excluded from swimming or other activities likely to lead to the exposure of others.