Your child may have been exposed to:

**Pinworms**

Pinworms are small worms that live in the human intestine (gut) and crawl out at night to lay eggs in the anal area.

If you think your child has Pinworms:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- Need to stay home?

**Childcare and School:**

No.

**Symptoms**

Your child may have itching of the anal area, especially at night. Your child may be fussy and wake often at night.

If your child is infected, it may take 2 to 8 weeks for symptoms to start.

**Spread**

- By touching the anal area of an infected person. This can happen while changing a diaper.
- By handling contaminated pajamas, underwear, or bedding.
- By having contact with contaminated food, objects, or surfaces.

**Contagious Period**

As long as eggs are present. Eggs can cause infection even after being off of the body for 2 to 3 weeks.

**Call your Healthcare Provider**

- If you suspect pinworms. The whole family may need to be examined. Your doctor may prescribe a medication.

**Prevention**

- Wash hands after using the toilet or changing diapers and before preparing food or eating. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Avoid scratching or touching bare anal area or biting nails. Keep nails short.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with stool. This includes toilets (potty chairs), sinks, toys, and diaper changing areas. Use a product that kills germs.
- Wash every morning (a shower is best) using a fresh washcloth and towel. Wear clean underwear each day. Handle sheets, blankets, and underwear of infected children carefully. Avoid shaking the items and wash dirty laundry promptly.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Kentucky Department for Public Health Frankfort, KY http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/
Kentucky Regional Poison Center Louisville, KY EMERGENCY: 1-800-222-1222
Lake Cumberland District Health Department Somerset, KY www.lcdhd.org (606) 678-4761
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA Toll free: 1-800-311-3435 www.cdc.gov

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