Your child may have been exposed to:

**Ringworm**

Ringworm is a fungal infection. It is not a worm. The scalp infection is most common in children. Infection of the feet is more common in adolescents and adults.

If you think your child has Ringworm:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**
  - **Childcare and School:**
    - Yes, until treatment has been started or if lesion cannot be completely covered. If on the scalp, until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
  - **Activities:** Limit gym, swimming, and other close contact activities if the lesion cannot be covered or until 72 hours after treatment has begun.
  - **Sports:** Athletes follow your healthcare provider’s recommendations and the specific sports league rules.

**Symptoms**

- **Body** - Flat, spreading, round shapes on the skin. If your child is infected, it may take 4 to 10 days for symptoms to start.
- **Scalp** - Begins as a small scaly patch on the scalp and may cover more of the head. Mild redness, swelling, itching and pustules (pus-filled bumps) may occur. Infected hairs become brittle and break off easily. If your child is infected, it may take 10 to 14 days for symptoms to start.
- **Feet (athlete’s foot)** - Scaling or cracking of the skin or blisters. Itching is common.

**Spread**

- By touching the infected skin of a person or pet (usually, dogs and cats).
- By sharing or touching contaminated objects. Objects include hats, clothing, furniture, shower stalls, swimming pool decks, and locker room benches or floors.

**Contagious Period**

As long as you can see the ringworm on your child’s skin. Once treatment has begun your child is less contagious.

**Call your Healthcare Provider**

- ♦ If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor will decide if treatment is needed. It is important to follow your doctor’s treatment directions exactly.
- ♦ If you think a pet has ringworm, call a veterinarian.

**Prevention**

- Wash hands after touching infected skin on humans and pets. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Cover skin lesions.
- Wash bedding, clothing, combs and brushes in hot, soapy water.
- Check all household members and all pets for signs of infection.
- DO NOT let children touch an infected pet’s skin until it has been treated and heals.

**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

Prepared by Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department (HSPHD)
June 2008