



### **What is it?**

- A skin infection caused by a fungus. It can affect the scalp or the body.

### **What are the symptoms?**

- Rash consisting of ring-shaped areas that are dry and scaly or moist and crusted.
- The outside edges of the rash are reddish in colour.
- As the rash progresses the central area often clears leaving normal looking skin.
- If the scalp is infected, areas of temporary baldness will be seen.
- Rash may be itchy.

### **How quickly do symptoms develop?**

- Within 4 to 14 days after being in contact with the infection.

### **How is it spread?**

- By direct or indirect contact with skin or scalp lesions (rash) of infected people or animals.
- By contact with infected articles such as combs, hairbrushes, hats, clothing or towels; contaminated floors, shower stalls, benches and similar articles.

### **How long is it contagious?**

- As long as lesions are present and articles are contaminated or until treatment is initiated.
- Children with ringworm may attend school/daycare once treatment has started.

### **How is it treated?**

- With a prescribed cream or ointment.
- Often a medication taken by mouth is also prescribed.

### **What can you do?**

- Check household members, pets and farm animals for circular rash and if found, contact physician or vet as necessary.
- Combs, hairbrushes, face cloths and towels should not be shared.
- Wash your hands after touching the infected skin. If your child has ringworm he should be encouraged to frequently wash his hands.
- Encourage children to wear foot-wear in public showers and pool areas.

### **Whom should I talk to if I have any questions?**

Communicable Disease Control, Algoma Public Health at (705) 942-4646,

[www.algomapublichealth.com](http://www.algomapublichealth.com), or your health care provider.