

RINGWORM OF THE SCALP
(Tinea capitis)

- IMMUNIZATION:** None
- INCUBATION PERIOD:** 10 to 14 days. The condition may spread for 3 to 4 months, and then spontaneous regression may occur.
- SYMPTOMS:** Round, scaly, localized patches on the scalp with short, broken-off hairs. Redness and scaliness may be present and range from mild to severe. Examination under suitable filtered ultraviolet light shows characteristic fluorescence.
- PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY:** As long as active lesions are present or viable fungus persists on contaminated materials - may persist for a long time.
- MODE OF TRANSMISSION:** Direct skin to skin contact, or indirect contact from upholstered seats, toilet articles such as brushes and combs, or clothing and hats **contaminated with hair** from infected persons or animals. Dogs, cats, and cattle may harbor the organism.
- SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:** Exclude until effective treatment is started. Usually requires prescription oral medication and antifungal shampoos or other topical treatment.
- CONTACTS/FOLLOW-UP:** Watch for development of infection in other children and caregivers who provide direct, physical care to young children. Have family check pets and farm animals for infection and treat if infected.