



FACT SHEET: Pinworm:

Pinworm infections are caused by the organism, *Enterobius vermicularis*, a small, thin, parasitic roundworm. It is the most common intestinal infection in the U.S., most often found in preschool and school-aged children and can infect close contacts and household members.

Infestations are usually limited to the anal area causing redness and itching especially at night when the female pinworm exits the intestine and lays eggs on the anal skin. Itching causes the infected person to scratch the skin, which can contaminate hands, fingernails, underwear, and subsequently sheets, towels, etc... eggs can survive for 2-3 weeks on these surfaces.

Pinworms are spread by:

- The fecal-oral route when eggs from an infected person's anal area are ingested by another person. For example, an uninfected person changes an infected person's diaper, handles infected clothing, (pajamas, underwear), with ineffective handwashing and touches their mouth.
- An infected person scratches their anal area and does not wash their hands appropriately and touches shared surfaces.

Please monitor your child for the following symptoms:

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| Itching the anal areas, especially at night, which can lead to: difficulty sleeping, restlessness and irritability | Infection can be asymptomatic at times |
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If your child develops any symptoms, please consult with your healthcare provider.

Prevention:

- Handwashing, especially after using the toilet, changing diapers, before eating,
- Avoiding contaminated surfaces,
- Medication for infected person and their household members,
- Frequent washing and disinfection of surfaces and clothing/bedding of an infected person

Individuals at High Risk:

Always consult with your healthcare provider with any questions or concerns. Household contacts tend to be at higher risk.

Return to School:

Students do not need to be excluded from school for pinworm, however hand hygiene should be reinforced and nails kept short.

Any questions please email/call your school nurse, (found on your home school website).

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/pinworm/about/>