EXPOSURE NOTICE
Ringworm

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child may have been exposed to a contagious skin infection called tinea (ringworm). Ringworm is caused by fungi that invade the top layer of the skin.

This infection is most often transmitted from one person to another or from infected animals to humans. It can also be spread from an inanimate object, such as a chair or carpeting.

Tinea corporis (ringworm of the body) causes itchy, scaly patches that are usually circular with a prominent edge. The patch usually spreads leaving a clear area in the center. Tinea capitus (ringworm of the scalp) causes one or several round, itchy patches of hair loss on the scalp.

Most types of tinea are diagnosed by a doctor from their appearances. For most types of tinea, treatment is with an antifungal drug in the form of creams, lotions, or ointments. For tinea on the scalp, or severe cases of ringworm, a medication in the form of a tablet is given to take by mouth. Often the treatment lasts for some time in order to make sure the fungi are eradicated and to prevent them from recurring.

Since this infection is very contagious, it is important to use good hygiene if you are infected with it. Make sure not to share towels, grooming items, or anything that has been near the infected area. Since this can be transmitted from animals, pets should be checked to see if they have the infection.

If you think your child has ringworm, please have him/her examined by your physician/practitioner. If a diagnosis is confirmed, please let the school nurse know. A doctor’s note stating the diagnosis and treatment being done is needed in order for your child to return to school.