



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

PINWORMS

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Pinworms has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described below, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County School Health Program at 904-253-1580.

What is Pinworm Infection?

- An infection caused by a small white worm

What are the symptoms of Pinworms?

- Itching around the rectum and "private areas"
- Disturbed sleep and irritability are common
- May also include loss of appetite and restlessness

How is pinworm infection spread?

- The transfer of pinworm eggs from the rectum to someone's mouth, either directly by hand or indirectly through contaminated clothing, bedding, food, or other articles.

How can I prevent the spread of infection and reinfection?

- Strict observance of good hand hygiene is the most effective means of preventing pinworm infection. This includes washing hands with soap and warm water after using the toilet, changing diapers, and before handling food
- Discourage nail biting and scratching infected areas
- Daily morning bathing and changing of underclothes helps remove a large proportion of pinworm eggs and can help prevent infection and reinfection
- Showering may be preferred to avoid possible contamination of bath water

Implications for school

- Exclude students or staff
- May return after note from parent, nurse, or healthcare provider establishes that student is under treatment

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

www.cdc.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics:

<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>