



Long Valley Charter School

Imagine-Achieve-Inspire

Ringworm Policy

Approved by: Board of Directors

Date: Oct 11, 2016

Number: 5006

Purpose: To provide administrative instructions for school staff and parents for the possibility of ringworm exposure at school. This policy is not legally required, but is in place to reduce exposure and protect student health and safety.

Definitions: A contagious, itching skin disorder occurring in small circular patches, caused by any number of fungi.

Procedures:

To prevent the spread of Ringworm:

1. LVCS personnel shall report all suspected cases of ringworm to the Site Administrator, or designee, as soon as possible.
2. The Site Administrator, or designee, shall examine the student and any siblings of affected students or members of the same household.
3. If possible ringworm patches are found, the student(s) shall be excluded from attendance and parents/guardians informed about the required medical evaluation and possible treatment.
4. The student(s) may return to LVCS when the Site Administrator or designee receives documentation from the medical provider or parent/guardian confirming examination and treatment and all patches have been covered before clearance to return to the classroom.
5. A letter may be sent to LVCS parents/guardians to inform of possible exposure to ringworm.

Exhibit A: Notice to Parents of Possible Ringworm Exposure

RINGWORM

Date of Exposure: _____

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Your child may have been exposed to Ringworm. A description of this illness follows. If you notice unusual scalp or skin irritation on your child, please consult your child's doctor and notify the school.

School policy on ringworm allows children to attend school after appropriate treatment has been started.

Ringworm is a common skin disorder, especially among children, but it may affect people of all ages. Many bacteria and fungi live on your body. Some of these are useful to you. Others can multiply and form irritations. Ringworm occurs when a particular type of fungus grows and multiplies anywhere on your skin, scalp, or nails.

Ringworm is contagious. It can be passed from one person to another by direct skin-to-skin contact or with contaminated items such as combs, unwashed clothing, and shower or pool surfaces. Ringworm can also be transferred from pets that carry the fungus. Cats are common carriers.

CAUSITIVE AGENT: Fungus. (Ringworm is not a worm)

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS: Itchy, red, raised, scaly patches that may blister. The patches often have sharply-defined edges. They are often redder around the outside with normal skin tone in the center. This may create the appearance of a ring. Your skin may also appear unusually dark or light. If nails are infected, they become discolored, thick and may even crumble.

INCUBATION PERIOD: Ringworm typically appears approximately 4 to 10 days after it has been acquired. Ringworm on the scalp area may take 10 to 14 days to become apparent.

PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY: As long as the fungus can be cultivated from an infected area and skin lesions are present.

METHOD OF TRANSMISSION: Ringworm is transmitted by direct contact with lesions of the affected person or indirect contact with the articles and surfaces contaminated by an affected person.