

PINWORMS

Pinworm infection is the most common intestinal worm infection in the U.S. School-age children are the most often infected group. Parents can get the worms from their infected children. Pinworms are small, less than one-half inch long. They live only in the human large intestine. They crawl and cause itching, which can be irritating and often severe enough to disturb one's sleep. Itching is often the only symptom of pinworms.

Pinworms can be spread person-to-person through worm eggs that are transferred to food or other items taken into the mouth when person fails to wash their hands after handling contaminated pajamas, underwear or bedding. The infection can also be prolonged when eggs get on the fingers or under the fingernails while scratching the anus during sleep.

You can tell if your child has Pinworms by actually seeing the worms (best done at night) or by finding the eggs on the anus. Your physician or School Nurse can explain how this is done with cellophane tape.

Your physician can prescribe a medication to treat Pinworms. The whole family will need to be treated to kill the worms. Further infection must be prevented by washing all bedding and clothing in HOT water and carefully washing hands after using the toilet and before eating. If you suspect that someone in your family has Pinworms, contact your doctor for proper treatment and take the necessary steps to prevent further infection.

If you have any questions, please call your School Nurse at 445-7051.

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