



Waukesha County  
Public Health Division  
Fact Sheet

## Pinworm (*Enterobius Vermicularis*)

### **What is Pinworm?**

Pinworm is a parasitic infection of the anal area.

### **Who gets Pinworm?**

Though most commonly found in children, adults are also susceptible.

### **How is Pinworm spread?**

Pinworm infection is commonly spread in day care centers and elementary schools, and is transmitted by children via toys and dirty fingers. Adult or older siblings can contract Pinworms by contaminated food or drink handled by the child.

### **What are the symptoms of Pinworm?**

Pinworm displays tickling or itching around the anus, restlessness, sleeplessness, loss of appetite, loss of weight, and sometimes nausea and vomiting. Infected children are often irritable, hard to manage, and inattentive in school.

### **How soon do symptoms appear?**

Since the life cycle of a Pinworm requires 2-6 weeks, results from infection occur within months after first being exposed.

### **When and for how long is a person able to spread Pinworm?**

Someone is able to spread Pinworm as long as eggs are being discharged from the female Pinworms.

### **Does past infection with Pinworm make a person immune?**

No, past infection with Pinworm does not make a person immune.

### **What are the complications associated with Pinworm?**

There are no additional complications associated with Pinworm if treated.

### **Is there a vaccine for Pinworm?**

No, there is no vaccine for Pinworm.

### **What can a person or community do to prevent the spread of Pinworm?**

To prevent the spread of Pinworm, wash hands after using the bathroom and before eating or preparing food. Showering each morning and changing underwear each day can help prevent the spread of disease. Underwear, nightclothes, bed sheet and washcloths/towels should be washed in hot water.