



**Waukesha County
Public Health Division
Fact Sheet**

Oral Candidiasis (Thrush)

What is Oral Candidiasis?

Oral Candidiasis, also known as Thrush, is a fungal infection caused by the fungus *Candida albicans*.

Who gets Thrush?

Thrush is most commonly found in infants that are being breast-fed.

How is Thrush spread?

Thrush is spread from the mother to infant during childbirth, by contact with oral secretions of the infected person, or from contaminated hands, nipples, bottles or other articles.

What are the symptoms of Thrush?

The most common symptoms of Thrush are burning and discomfort in the mouth along with white or yellow patches in the mouth and/or throat, these patches can be removed by light scraping.

How soon do symptoms appear?

The symptoms for Thrush appear usually between 2-5 days in infants.

When and for how long is a person able to spread Thrush?

Someone is able to spread Thrush for as long as the lesions are present.

Do past infections with Thrush make a person immune?

Past infection with Thrush does not make a person immune to Thrush.

What are the complications associated with Thrush?

Thrush is usually a benign condition during the first few weeks of life.

Is there a vaccine for Thrush?

No, there is no vaccine available for Thrush.

What can a person or community do to prevent the spread of Thrush?

To prevent the spread of Thrush, the infected child should not attend daycare while white patches are present in the mouth and the child is active and mouthing toys, etc. A child may attend daycare if confined to a crib or playpen and if close attention is paid to washing of bottles, etc. Any staff caring for an infected child must practice good hand washing.