



What are pinworms?

- An intestinal disorder caused by a parasite called *Enterobius vermicularis* that live in the intestine. Very common in children but can affect anyone

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Some people have no symptoms
- Itching around the anus
- Symptoms caused by female laying her eggs
- Symptoms can occur 2 to 6 weeks after exposure
- Disturbed sleep
- Irritability

How is it spread?

- By ingesting the eggs by hand from the anus to the mouth of yourself or another person
- Eggs can survive in the environment for up to 2 weeks
- Symptoms begin two to six weeks after exposure
- A person is contagious as long as eggs are being laid

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation
- All household members are treated with a prescription medication
- All toilet seats should be scrubbed daily
- All bed linens should be washed daily in hot water

How can pinworms be prevented?

- Trim fingernails short
- Wash hands frequently, especially before eating and after using the restroom
- Avoid scratching rectal area
- Keep fingers out of mouth

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- No.

When can the individual return to the general population?

- May return after first treatment dose upon recommendation of primary care provider

Should facilities do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017