# IH_color_300_high-res - WANDA USEPinworms

Pinworms have been reported in the classroom.

Pinworms are tiny white worms that live in the intestines that look like short pieces of white thread.

Pinworms lay eggs outside the anus (bum) at night and cause intense anal itching. They may be spread directly from person to person by hand, or through bedding, food or clothing.

A non-prescription medication is available at the pharmacy. Often the whole family will need treatment. Afterwards, bedding should be washed in hot soapy water and the home vacuumed.

One way to prevent pinworms is to teach children to wash their hands well, with running water and soap, before eating and after using the toilet.

For more information contact:

* Your local [Public Health Unit](http://www.viha.ca/locations/health_units/)
* [HealthLinkBC](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/) or dial 8-1-1 (a free call)
* Your doctor
* Your pharmacist

Child, Youth and Family Community Health

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