



ICEH Community Education Flyer

HOOKWORM

Hook-worm

Other words: worms

What causes Hookworm?

Hookworm is a common worm infection, which occurs in around 20% of the world's population.

People can get hookworm from walking bare foot on dirt that contains the worms, or by drinking water or eating food contaminated with hookworm. Mothers can also pass on hookworm to their unborn babies.

How might I know that I have Hookworm?

Signs that a person may have hookworm include:

- * Fever
- * Tummy pain
- * Weight loss
- * Inability to pass faeces (shit)
- * Diarrhoea (runny tummy) containing blood
- * Weakness
- * Pale skin



How do I avoid getting ill?

Do:

- ✓ Wear covered footwear in areas where worms live in the dirt.
- ✓ Wash hands after going to the toilet, touching animals or gardening, and before handling or eating food.
- ✓ Use safe food preparation practices.
- ✓ Keep dogs and cats out of sleeping and eating areas.
- ✓ Regularly worm pet dogs and cats.
- ✓ Clean animal living areas often.
- ✓ Keep cats and dogs out of places where food is grown or children play.
- ✓ Make sure sewage and septic systems are not broken or faulty.
- ✓ Always finish the course of drugs given by the community nurse or Aboriginal Health Worker for hookworm infections.



This sheet is for information only. For further information contact your Environmental Health Worker, doctor, hospital, or local health clinic.