



Scabies Exclusion Policy and Facts

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WHAT CAUSES SCABIES AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Anyone can get scabies. Scabies is a skin infection caused by a microscopic mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*. It usually starts in the soft skin between the fingers, on the wrist or elbows, in armpits, on the beltline, or on the buttocks. It can spread to any part of the body. The small mite burrows into the skin and causes severe itching. Scabies spreads by close contact with skin, clothing, towels, or bedding of the infected person. A person with scabies can spread the infection until successfully treated. Scabies may appear anytime from several days to several weeks after contact.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF SCABIES?

Scabies causes intense itching which is often most intense at night. Affected skin may have tiny burrows (that look like a raised line or scratches), pimple-like irritations, or rash of the skin. In other cases, the skin looks like it has been severely scratched, may be raw-appearing, and may bleed. The sores can sometimes become infected with bacteria.

TREATMENT

1. Contact your health care provider who will either prescribe a lotion or cream.
2. Following the directions on the lotion or cream, cover all of the body from the neck down.
3. After treatment, wear clean clothing and use clean bedding.
4. Using hot soapy water, wash all clothes, linens, and towels used during the 48 hours prior to the scabies treatment. Dry the items in a hot dryer. All clothing and bedding must be washed or dry-cleaned since the mite can live away from humans for two or three days. For items that cannot be washed in hot water, seal them in a plastic garbage bag and place the bag in the garage or outside for two weeks.
5. Sometimes a second treatment will be recommended. However, you should not apply a second treatment unless specifically advised to do so by your healthcare provider.
6. If your health care provider has instructed family members to be treated, everyone should receive treatment at the same time to prevent reinfestation.
7. Itching may continue for 2-3 weeks, and does not mean that you are still infested. Your health care provider may prescribe medication to relieve the itching.

EXCLUSION POLICY

A student who has scabies must be excluded from school for 24 hours after they have been treated. Twenty-four hours after treatment has begun, your child should no longer be contagious and can return to school, he/she must be checked by the school nurse before allowed back into the classroom