

ATTACHMENT #2

SCABIES

What is scabies?

Scabies is an infestation of the skin caused by a mite. These mites live under the skin.

How do I know if my child has scabies?

The most common symptom of scabies is an itchy rash. Itching is often worse at night and mostly appears on areas of the body where the skin can fold over in some way (i.e. armpits, skin between fingers, wrists or elbows, breasts, waistline, and groin). You may also see small, irregular bumps or blisters on your skin.

Scabies is diagnosed by a doctor or nurse by looking at the rash and/or taking a scraping from the skin

Did you know?

- The mites that cause scabies can only live outside of the human body for two days
- It may take up to 3 months for itching from a scabies infestation to go away, even after you have completed treatment.
- The scabies mite cannot fly or jump, in fact it moves very slowly
- The scabies rash is intensely itchy and tends to be worse at night or after a hot shower

Who gets scabies? How is it spread?

Anyone can get scabies as it is spread by prolonged and direct skin contact with someone who has an active infestation or through their commonly used items (i.e. bedding, towels, or clothing). It can be spread in a family, child care group, school class, or nursing home.

Needs to have prolonged and direct skin contact, sitting next to an affected individual is usually not going to spread scabies

How do I get rid of scabies?

A medicated cream is prescribed by a doctor. The cream will be applied to the skin and left on for 8-14 hours and then washed off. Make sure you cover all areas where the mites may go and make sure they can't get away. For example, if you have scabies near the hands, put the medication under your fingernails so the mites cannot migrate there.

Clothing, bedding and towels used during treatment should also be washed when treatment is completed.

For more information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/>