

Scabies

Dear parent or guardian:

Your child recently may have been exposed to **scabies**. Scabies is a skin condition caused by mites burrowing into the skin and causing a rash. The mites are invisible to the eye.

Children with scabies can typically return to school or childcare the day after they start treatment.

Symptoms

Scabies causes a rash in the folds of the fingers, toes, armpits, elbows, wrists, waistline, abdomen, and groin. Children younger than 2 years may show rash anywhere on the body. It takes about 4–6 weeks for symptoms to show when infected for the first time.

Spread

Scabies spreads by close and extended contact with an infected person. Sharing household items, like clothing, towels, and bedding, can also spread scabies.

Diagnosis and treatment

A healthcare provider can diagnose scabies based on the rash. Scabies is treated with a prescription cream. Family members and very close contacts should be treated at the same time, even if they don't have symptoms.

Prevention

- Wash bedding, towels, pillows, and stuffed animals that were in close contact with the skin during the 3 days before treatment.
- Wash clothing worn during the 3 days before treatment.
- Wash items in hot water in a washing machine and then dry in the dryer on the hot setting.
- Get items that can't go in hot water dry cleaned or place them in sealed plastic bags for at least 4 days.

Learn more

For more info, contact a healthcare provider.