



Scabies

Parent Resource Template

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DEFINITION

- Scabies is a skin condition caused by tiny mites that burrow under the skin and lay eggs.

HOW IT IS SPREAD

- *Prolonged* skin-to-skin contact with the infected person.
- Sharing bedding, towels, or clothing.

SYMPTOMS

- A pimple-like rash with intense itching.
- Itching is usually worse at night and can last for several weeks after treatment.
- Occurs in warm folds of the skin, such as: between the fingers, at the wrists, elbows, belt line, abdomen, shoulder blades, thighs, knees, lower buttocks, and groin.
- It may take 4-6 weeks for symptoms to appear after the first exposure.
- Subsequent exposures can produce symptoms within 1-4 days.

TREATMENT

- Prescription creams and lotions for scabies kill the mites and eggs. Treatments must be left on the skin for several hours.
- Antihistamine creams can help relieve itching.
- Wash infected clothing in hot water and dry on high heat (or dry clean clothing).

- Items that cannot be washed should be sealed in a plastic bag for several days. Mites can live 1-2 months on the body but only live 48-72 hours off the skin.
- Treat all family members even if they have no signs of infestation.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

- Student may return to school once treatment is completed (usually overnight)

Created by:
Health Services Nurses
West Ada School District

Information compiled from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Center for Disease Control