

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: SCABIES

What is Scabies?

Scabies is a skin infestation by mites, tiny relatives of spiders. The mites burrow into the skin and cause an itchy rash.

What are the symptoms?

An itchy rash occurs as an allergic reaction to the mites. Red bumps and blisters usually appear in a line on skin folds between the fingers, toes, wrists, elbows, armpits, waistline, thighs, genital area, abdomen, and lower buttocks. Infants and toddlers may have a rash on the head, neck, palms, and soles of the feet, or a light rash anywhere on the body.

A person who has never had scabies before will get a rash four to six weeks after getting scabies mites. People who have had scabies before will have an allergic rash within a few days after exposure. A person can continue to spread scabies until the mite infestation is treated.

Who gets it and how?

Anyone can get scabies, regardless of income, age, sex, or personal hygiene. Scabies is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact with another person or by sharing clothes or bedding of a person with the infestation.

Should children with scabies be excluded?

Yes, until after treatment is completed. Children with symptoms of scabies should see their health care provider for evaluation and treatment.

Household members and very close contacts are usually treated at the same time as the child. People who have had close contact with the affected child should get medical advice from their health care provider, even if no signs or symptoms are present.

Where should I report it?

Notify staff members and parents of children who may have had close contact with a person known to have scabies.

HOW CAN I LIMIT THE SPREAD OF SCABIES?

- ▶ Practice good hand hygiene.
- ▶ Look for signs of scabies, and report if you suspect a child has scabies.
- ▶ Keep children’s clothing and bedding separate.
- ▶ Launder clothes, towels, and bedding worn or used by the affected person in hot water. Dry in a hot dryer, or iron with a hot iron.
- ▶ Non-washable items may be dry cleaned or sealed in a plastic bag for at least four days.
- ▶ Vacuum carpets, upholstered furniture, and car seats.

ACTION PLAN FOR SCABIES

WHEN TO TAKE ACTION	TREATMENT	NOTIFICATION	PREVENTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ When someone has symptoms of scabies or been in close contact with a person known to have scabies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Young children should see a health care provider for treatment. ▶ Adults with close contact to a child with scabies should talk to their health care provider about treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Notify staff and parents of children who may have had close contact with a person with scabies. ▶ Anyone suspected of having scabies should be excluded until after treatment is completed (usually overnight). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Practice good hand hygiene. ▶ Look for signs of scabies during the morning check. ▶ Do not share clothing, hats, towels, or bedding. ▶ Launder clothes and bedding in hot water. Dry in a hot dryer or press with a hot iron. ▶ Vacuum often.