



Scabies

Scabies is caused by tiny mites that burrow and lay eggs under the skin. Most commonly, scabies infestations result in an itchy rash.

If you think your child has scabies:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- Keep your child home from childcare and school until 24 hours after treatment begins.
- For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or your local health department.

Parent/Guardian information

Symptoms

Your child may have a rash of pink bumps or tiny blisters and may itch the most at night. Sometimes you can only see scratch marks. Common locations for the rash and itching are between fingers, around wrists and elbows, and armpits. Infants and young children may be infested on the head, neck, palms, and bottoms of feet.

If your child has scabies, it takes 2 to 6 weeks for symptoms to start. If your child has had this before, symptoms may start in 1 to 4 days.

Spread

- By having a lot of direct contact with the skin of a person with scabies.
- By sharing bedding, towels, or clothing that was used by a person with scabies.

The mites cannot live off the human body for more than 3 days. They cannot reproduce off the body.

Contagious period

From when a child is infected by mites, even if they have no symptoms, until 24 hours after treatment begins.

Call your health care provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor may do a test and/or give a medication, usually a cream or lotion.
- Some people who come in contact with the rash frequently may be offered treatment even if they do not have symptoms. Ask your doctor who in the household needs to be treated.

Even with treatment, it often takes 2-3 weeks for rash and itching to go away.

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Prevention

- At time of treatment, wash personal items and clothing used in the past 3 days in hot water and dry in a hot dryer. Examples of things to wash are underwear, pajamas, bedding, and towels. Items that cannot be washed should be sealed in a plastic bag for at least 4 days.
- Vacuum upholstered furniture and carpeting. Do not use insecticide sprays.

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