

# Scabies

## Symptoms

Rash consisting of pink bumps or tiny blisters and intense itching, which may be more severe at night. Frequently only scratch marks can be seen. Common locations to see the rash are folds of skin between fingers, around wrists and elbows, and armpits. Other areas where rash may appear are knees, waist, thighs, genital area, abdomen, chest, breasts, and lower portion of buttocks. Infants and young children may be infested on head, neck, palms, and soles of feet.

## Spread

By frequent or prolonged direct contact with the skin of a person with scabies or by sharing bedding, towels, or underclothing of a person with scabies. Mites cannot survive off the human body for more than 3 days and cannot reproduce off the body.

## Incubation Period

It takes 2 to 6 weeks from the time a person is exposed until symptoms appear. Symptoms may appear in 1 to 4 days if the person has had scabies before.

## Contagious Period

From the time a person acquires the mites (before the rash appears) until 24 hours after treatment begins.

## Exclusion from School

Until 24 hours after treatment begins

## Treatment

The healthcare provider will prescribe a medication, usually a cream or lotion. Permethrin 5 % is the drug of choice. There are several other prescription scabicides. Directions must be followed carefully.

- Itching and rash may not go away immediately after treatment. It often takes 2 to 3 weeks for rash and itching to go away.
- It is recommended that household members are treated, particularly those with prolonged direct skin-to-skin contact.

Thank you, School Nurse