



Scabies

What is Scabies?

Scabies is an infestation of the skin with the microscopic mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*. These mites live in burrows dug into the top layers of the skin. The burrows contain the mites and their eggs. Scabies spreads rapidly under crowded conditions where there is frequent skin-to-skin contact between people, such as in hospitals, child care facilities, and nursing homes.

How is Scabies spread?

Scabies is spread by prolonged skin-to-skin contact with a person already infested with scabies. Infestation is easily spread to sexual partners and household members. Infestation may also occur by sharing clothing, towels and bedding.

How is Scabies treated?

- Scabies is diagnosed by a physician, who can prescribe a lotion or cream containing a scabicide (prescription medication). There are also alternative scabicides available for pregnant women and infants under one year of age.
- A second course of treatment may be necessary in 7-10 days if eggs survived the first treatment.
- Preventive treatment is recommended for household members, particularly those who have prolonged skin-to-skin contact.

How can Scabies be prevented?

- Avoid skin to skin contact with others until 24 hours after initial treatment.
- Notify school and parents of playmates, so that others can be alert for additional cases.
- Do not share personal items such as clothing, towels, and bedding.

Symptoms of Scabies:

- Symptoms usually occur 4-6 weeks after exposure but can occur up to 2 months after exposure.
- A red, itchy rash occurs at sites of burrows such as spaces between fingers, backs of hands, elbows, armpits, groin, breasts, navel, penis, small of back and buttocks.
- Itching may continue for 2-3 weeks even after effective treatment.

Jackson County Health Department
1715 Lansing Ave.
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 788-4420
www.mijackson.org

Source: www.cdc.gov
CDC Public Information
English 1-888-246-2675
Español 1-888-246-2857
TTY 1-888-874-2646