



March 19, 2019

Re: Scabies Notification

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Your child may have been exposed to scabies. Scabies is a disease of the skin caused by burrowing of the scabies mite. The mite is transmitted through direct skin-to-skin contact or through sharing of an infested person's personal items such as clothing.

Please observe your child for intense itching (especially at night) and rash. The rash can usually be seen in the following places:

- between webs and sides of fingers
- wrists
- elbows
- armpits
- breasts
- genitalia
- lower buttocks
- waist
- thighs

Symptoms usually appear within two to six weeks after coming in contact with a person who has scabies. Persons who have had scabies before may have symptoms appear within one to four days.

Treatment Recommendations

If you are concerned that your child or anyone else in your family may have scabies, please see your family medical provider. If necessary, your medical provider will be able to provide treatments that can kill the scabies mite. Usually one application of a prescription scabicide is adequate to treat scabies. It is recommended that if your child has scabies, the entire family should be treated. Please discuss this with your family medical provider.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

Washable items such as clothing bedding, and towels can be disinfected by washing the items in hot water and detergent. Wash water temperature should be set to the highest temperature possible. Use the hot setting on the dryer to dry clothing items for at least 20 minutes.

Non-washable items such as shoes, coats, jackets, and scarves can be disinfected in one of two ways: 1) place the items in a dryer for at least 20 minutes on the hot setting; or 2) seal the items in a plastic bag for seven days.

Fumigating rooms and using insecticidal sprays on furniture, infant carriers, child car seats and carpets are not recommended for cases of common scabies. Thorough cleaning and vacuuming of these items are sufficient.

Attendance

Children who have scabies should not attend school or extracurricular activities until the treatment has been completed.

If you have additional questions, please contact your family medical provider and/or your child's school nurse.

Sincerely,

Keith T. Neuhs
Superintendent