



SCABIES

What is scabies?

- Scabies is an infestation of the skin with the microscopic mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*. The mite burrows and lives under the skin.

What are the symptoms?

- Pimple-like irritations, burrows or rash of the skin, especially in webbing between the fingers and the skin folds on the wrist, elbow, knee, toes and armpits
- Intense itching, especially at night and over most of the body
- Sores on the body caused by scratching. These sores can sometimes become infected with bacteria

How is it spread?

- Direct, prolonged contact with the skin of an infested person
- Sharing clothing, bedding or towels
- Sexual contact
- A person can spread scabies until treated and mites and eggs are destroyed
- Symptoms may take 2-6 weeks to appear in persons without previous exposure, 1-4 days after re-exposure

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation
- Treatment is a prescribed lotion, rubbed on entire body and left on for specified length of time
- Other close contacts should also be treated at the same time

Should the sick child be isolated?

- With the first signs of infestation

When can the child return to day care or school?

- After treatment prescribed by a physician

Should schools do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-3612

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.