

## ***What is scabies?***

- A skin infestation caused by a tiny mite called *Sarcoptes scabiei*.
- The mite burrows under the skin to lay eggs.

## ***How does a person get scabies?***

- Scabies is spread by direct physical contact with a person who has scabies.
- It can be spread by wearing the clothing or sleeping in the bed of an infested person.
- It can also be spread by sexual contact with a person who has scabies.

## ***What are the signs and symptoms?***

- Symptoms usually do not appear until 2 to 6 weeks after being infested with the mite. Scabies can be spread during this time.
- Symptoms include:
  - severe itching, which is worse at night or when the body gets warm a rash that may appear as small, raised, red spots found between fingers, on wrists or belt lines and in the folds of the skin, but may appear anywhere on the body. The rash often looks like eczema.
- When re-infestation occurs, symptoms usually develop within 1 to 4 days.

## ***How is scabies treated?***

- Correct diagnosis can be difficult, since there are many rashes that have different causes.
- Purchase a lotion for the treatment of scabies at a pharmacy. Carefully follow the directions on the container.
- Repeat the treatment one week later.
- Itching may increase following treatment. It may persist for 1 to 2 weeks.
- Check people in the same household and others who have had close contact. Treat if necessary.
- Wash all clothes, bedding, and towels, used by the infested person, in hot water and dry in a hot dryer.

## ***How is scabies prevented?***

- Prompt diagnosis and treatment prevents spread to others.
- Practice good handwashing.
- Avoid sharing clothes with others.
- Avoid close direct contact with anyone who has an undiagnosed rash.
- Exclude infested people from school, daycare or work until treated.

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For more information contact your doctor  
or Population and Public Health at **306-655-4612**

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