



2096 Red Arrow Trail  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-275-6740

## Scabies

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### Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

Dear Parents:

Your child may have been exposed to the communicable disease **Scabies** in a Reach Dane/Reach Green classroom on the following date\_\_\_\_\_.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions, or if your child begins experiencing symptoms of the illness, contact your child's primary care provider or one of the agencies listed below. **Children are recommended to have scabies medication if they have been around someone in their classroom with scabies.**

Public Health – Madison & Dane County

(608) 266-4821

Green County Health Department

(608) 328-9390

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

Scabies is a fairly common condition of the skin caused by a microscopic mite. Mites that cause scabies burrow into the skin producing pimple-like irritations and severe itching. Occasionally bacterial infections may occur following intense scratching at the site of the burrow. Scabies infestations can affect anyone, anywhere.

#### **What are the symptoms of scabies?**

The most prominent symptom of scabies is intense itching, particularly at night. The areas of the skin most affected by scabies include the webs and sides of the fingers, around the wrists, elbows and armpits, waist, thighs, genitalia, abdomen and lower buttocks. In infants younger than two years old the skin symptoms are likely to appear on the head, neck, hands and feet.

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

Scabies usually is spread by direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with a person who has scabies. Contact generally must be prolonged; a quick handshake or hug usually will not spread scabies. Scabies is spread easily to household members. In severe cases, scabies sometimes is spread indirectly by sharing articles such as clothing, towels, or bedding used by an infested person; only if these have been contaminated by an infected person immediately beforehand. An infected person is able to spread scabies until mites and eggs are destroyed, usually until after one treatment with an effective anti-scabies medication.

### **How long does it take to develop scabies following exposure?**

After exposure, symptoms will appear from 2-6 weeks in people who have not previously been exposed to scabies infestations. People who have had a previous infestation with scabies mites may show symptoms within 1-4 days after subsequent re-exposures.

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

Scabies can be treated with either prescription or over-the-counter medications. Your health care provider can advise you on treatment options. They may be topical (applied to the skin) medications or oral medications. Sometimes, itching may persist for 1-2 weeks after treatment, but this should not be regarded as a failure of the medication or re-infection with the scabies mites.

### **How long is a child with scabies excluded from childcare?**

Children are excluded from childcare until after treatment has been completed.

### **How can I limit the spread of scabies?**

Persons with scabies symptoms should seek prompt medical care. Avoid physical contact with infested individuals and their belongings, especially clothing and bedding. In severe cases, clothing and bed linen worn or used by an infected person in the 48 hours before treatment may be laundered and dried at the highest temperature or stored in a container such as a plastic bag for 7 days to kill mites and their eggs. Use of environmental pesticides should be avoided. Preventive therapy is recommended for household members and childcare classrooms of an infected person. Proper treatment and the need for early diagnosis and treatment of scabies are extremely important.