



Communicable Disease Prevention and Control
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EXPOSURE NOTICE: SCABIES

Date Issued: _____

Dear Parent, Legal Guardian, or Staff,

Students and staff may have been recently exposed to **scabies**. We are providing the information below so you know what steps you can take to protect yourself and others. This information does not replace talking with your doctor if you become sick. ***If you or your child have symptoms, please seek diagnosis and treatment from a healthcare provider as soon as possible.***

SCABIES: A skin rash caused by small insects called mites. Mites are too tiny to see with the naked eye. They burrow into the upper layer of skin and cause an itchy rash.

What are the symptoms? Itchy rash around the fingers, wrists, elbows, underarms, waist, thighs, ankles, genital area, abdomen, and/or lower buttocks. Children under 2 years of age may have a rash on the head, neck, palms, and/or soles of feet, or spread all over the body.

How is it spread? Prolonged skin-to-skin contact with a person with scabies. Contact must be prolonged; a quick handshake or hug will usually not spread scabies. Scabies can also be spread indirectly through contact with bedding, clothing, or towels that have mites on them. Animals do not spread human scabies.

When do symptoms start? If a person has never had scabies before, symptoms may take 4-8 weeks to develop. In a person who has had scabies before, symptoms usually appear much sooner (1-4 days) after exposure.

Do staff or children need to stay home if symptoms develop? Yes.

When can staff or children go back to work, school, or childcare? The child or staff member can return after treatment is completed (usually overnight). Scabies is primarily treated with prescription lotion or cream.

For additional information, visit [cdc.gov/parasites/scabies](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies).