Scabies
Parent Resource Template

This document is only a template resource. If the template is used, please customize the document to include district’s/school’s nursing practices and branding.

DEFINITION

• Scabies is a skin condition caused by tiny mites that burrow under the skin and lay eggs.

HOW IT IS SPREAD

• Prolonged skin-to-skin contact with the infected person.
• Sharing bedding, towels, or clothing.

SYMPTOMS

• A pimple-like rash with intense itching.
• Itching is usually worse at night and can last for several weeks after treatment.
• Occurs in warm folds of the skin, such as: between the fingers, at the wrists, elbows, belt line, abdomen, shoulder blades, thighs, knees, lower buttocks, and groin.
• It may take 4-6 weeks for symptoms to appear after the first exposure.
• Subsequent exposures can produce symptoms within 1-4 days.

TREATMENT

• Prescription creams and lotions for scabies kill the mites and eggs. Treatments must be left on the skin for several hours.
• Antihistamine creams can help relieve itching.
• Wash infected clothing in hot water and dry on high heat (or dry clean clothing).
• Items that cannot be washed should be sealed in a plastic bag for several days. Mites can live 1-2 months on the body but only live 48-72 hours off the skin.
• Treat all family members even if they have no signs of infestation.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

• Student may return to school once treatment is completed (usually overnight)

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Information compiled from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Center for Disease Control