

SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Syracuse, New York

HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Dear Parent:

There is a case of **scabies** in your child's classroom. In an effort to protect your child and other children in school from contacting and spreading scabies, we suggest the following:

Definition:

Scabies is a highly communicable skin disease caused by a tiny itch mite.

Signs, Symptoms, and History:

1. Intense itching, more severe at night.
2. Raised grayish-white linear burrows.
3. Papules and vesicles from skin being irritated by mite.
4. Skin eruptions usually found around finger webs, wrists, elbows, axillary folds, lower buttocks, thighs, abdomen, groin, under breasts.
5. Exposure to scabies at home or school.
6. Pustules present, with secondary infection from scratching.

Initial Management:

1. Consult child's physician.
2. Good hand washing technique.
3. Instruct parents that all family members should be treated.
Also, wash all bed linens, towels, underwear, etc. in hot water (140).

Exclusion/Readmission:

1. Exclude child from school.
2. Child is noncontagious 24 hours after taking prescribed medication and may return to school with a physician's verification of treatment.
3. After treatment, check lesions in 1 week, if no change, refer to physician for retreatment.

Additional Information:

Scabies is transmitted by direct contact or indirect contact (infected undergarments or linens). In the incubation period, initial infestations are asymptomatic for 2 to 6 weeks. Itching occurs within 1 to 4 days with reinfestation. The period of communicability lasts until mites or eggs are destroyed by treatment. Occasionally two courses of treatment, 1 week apart, are necessary. Scabies occurs in the best of families and does not always pertain to personal cleanliness. The mite is easily spread from one person to another or by items that may harbor the mite, such as bedding and clothing.

Treatment is as prescribed by physician. Itching may persist for days following treatment but is not to be regarded as indication for additional treatment.

School Nurse _____

School _____

Date _____