

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is scabies?

Scabies is a condition of very itchy skin caused by tiny mites that burrow into the skin. The itching is caused by an allergic reaction to the mites. Scratching can lead to a skin infection. Scabies spreads very easily from person to person.

What are the symptoms?

Tiny lines and a pimple-like rash or sores: commonly seen around finger webs, wrists, elbows, in skin folds, armpits, buttocks, or the waist.

Itchy skin, especially at night or after bathing.

If you have not had scabies before, the itchy rash may start in 4-6 weeks after exposure or as early as 1-4 days if you have had scabies before.

How do you get scabies?

Scabies mites spread by having close contact with someone with scabies.

They easily spread between people who live together, sleep in the same bed, or have sex.

Mites can also be spread by sharing towels, clothing, and other personal items with a person who has a scabies infestation.

How is it diagnosed?

A health care provider can diagnose scabies based on symptoms and exposure to someone with similar symptoms or a known scabies infection.

Sometimes a test of dry skin, gently scraped from an affected area, is looked at to confirm scabies.

How is scabies treated?

- Your health care provider will give treatment instructions.
- All household contacts should be treated to avoid reinfestation and transmission.
- **Note: some scabies medications aren't safe for use in young children, older adults and pregnant or breastfeeding women, follow your health care providers instructions.**
- After treatment, itching may last several weeks to a month. If you still have symptoms for four weeks after treatment or need medication to relieve itching, contact your health care provider.

How do you clean things at home?

Wash clothing, bed sheets, and blankets on a full hot cycle then put in the drier on the hottest cycle. Store items that cannot be washed in a sealed plastic bag for 1 week.

Clean the home as normal and vacuum mattresses, pillows, cloth furniture and car seats.

What Infection Prevention and Control Measures are put in place for Scabies?

In all health care settings, persons with suspected or confirmed scabies will receive care under Contact Precautions. This means that staff providing care will wear gloves and gowns.