



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

SCABIES

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Scabies has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described below, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County School Health Program at 904-253-1580.

What is Scabies?

- A very contagious skin infection caused by a tiny mite
- Affects both humans and animals
- Causes symptoms when it tunnels below the skin (burrows)
- Affects anyone regardless of personal hygiene habits

How is it spread?

- Person to person contact
- Sharing of bedding, towels and clothing

What are the symptoms of Scabies?

- Rash, severe itching especially at night
- Itchy red bumps or blisters. These are usually found in the skin folds of the fingers, toes, wrists, elbows, armpits, waistline, thighs
- Children under 2 years of age, may have infestation on the head, neck, palms of the hands, soles of the feet or spread over the body
- People who have scabies may experience severe and continuous itching (especially at night).
- Skin may show small insect-type bites on it, or the areas may look like pimples. It may also be red and crusty due to scratching of the area.
- A burrow (a short S-shaped tract that indicates the mite's movement under the skin) may also be visible

How can Scabies be treated?

- Wash bedding and clothing using hot water and hot drying cycle
- Things that cannot be washed may be placed in plastic bags and sealed for at least 4 days
- Family members and close contacts should be treated at the same time as a child
- Consult with your health care provider

Implications for school

- Exclude students or staff who have been diagnosed with the disease
- Must have a healthcare provider's note to return

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

www.cdc.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics:

<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>

Attachment E-XXXII