



Scabies

Fact Sheet



Scabies is caused by a tiny mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*. The mite burrows into the upper layer of the skin where it lives and lays its eggs.



The scabies mite spreads by direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with a person who has scabies.



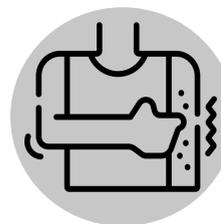
Scabies occurs worldwide and affects people of all races and social classes. Scabies can spread rapidly under crowded conditions where close body contact is frequent.

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms of scabies may not appear for up to two months after exposure. Symptoms appear much sooner if the person has had scabies before. A person can spread scabies even if they do not have symptoms.

Common areas for severe itching and a rash include:

- webbing between the fingers
- waist
- genitals
- buttocks
- wrist
- elbow
- armpit



severe itching



pimple-like skin rash

Tiny burrows are sometimes seen on the skin. They may appear as tiny raised and grayish-white or skin-colored lines on the skin surface.

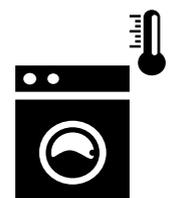
Treatment



- Anyone who lives in the same household or has prolonged skin-to-skin contact with someone with scabies in the past month should talk to a health care provider.
- Scabies treatment involves lotions or creams that kill the mites and eggs.
- Itching may continue for several weeks after treatment.

Prevention

- Wash any bedding or clothing worn by a person with scabies in washer and dryer using the hottest settings. Clothing can also be dry cleaned.
- Items can also be stored in a sealed plastic bag for several days to a week.
- People can usually return to child care, school, or work the day after treatment begins.



For More Information:



Contact a health care provider or Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention at 1-800-821-5821 for more information.

You can also visit www.cdc.gov/scabies