



What is scabies?

- An infestation of the skin with the microscopic mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*. The mite burrows and lives under the skin, and can infect anyone.

What are the symptoms?

- Pimple-like irritations, burrows or rash of the skin, especially in webbing between the fingers and the skin folds on the wrist, elbow, knee, toes and armpits
- Intense itching, especially at night and over most of the body
- Sores on the body caused by scratching. These sores can sometimes become infected with bacteria

How is it spread?

- Direct, prolonged contact with the skin of an infected person such as sharing clothing, bedding or towels
- A person can spread scabies until treated and mites and eggs are destroyed
- The mite does NOT jump

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation
- Treatment is a prescribed lotion, rubbed on body and left on for specified length of time
- Other close contacts should also be treated at the same time

How can scabies be prevented?

- Seek prompt help from doctor or clinic to detect and treat early
- All infected people should be excluded from school/work until the day after treatment
- Avoid sharing clothing, bedding, towels, and prolonged skin contact with those infected
- Household cleaning:
 - Freshly laundered clothing should be put on after each treatment
 - All clothing and bedding should be washed in hot water and soap and dried in a hot dryer
 - Toys should be laundered
 - Vacuum mattresses, pillows, carpeting, and upholstered furniture thoroughly
 - If item cannot be laundered/cleaned, store in a plastic bag for two weeks to prevent spread

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- Yes. When the first signs of infestation are present

When can the individual return to the general population?

- After treatment prescribed by a physician has been completed

Should facilities do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017