



*LAKE LAND JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272*

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## **Communicable Disease Fact Sheet SCABIES**

### **What is Scabies?**

- ◆ Scabies is a tiny parasitic mite that burrows under the skin.
- ◆ Once away from the human body, mites do not survive more than 48-72 hours.
- ◆ When living on a person, an adult female mite can live up to a month.
- ◆ This is a mite that only affects humans.
- ◆ Pets get a different kind of scabies mite.

### **Symptoms:**

- ◆ Pimple-like irritations, burrows or rash of the skin, especially the webbing between the fingers; the skin folds on the wrist, elbow, or knee, the penis, breast or shoulder blades.
- ◆ 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?**

- ◆ By direct prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with a person already infested with scabies.
- ◆ Contact must be prolonged (not a quick handshake or hug).
- ◆ Infestation is easily spread to sexual partners and household members.
- ◆ Infestation may also occur by sharing clothing, towels, and bedding.

### **Diagnosis:**

- ◆ Scabies needs to be diagnosed by a physician. There are many other skin conditions that are misdiagnosed as scabies.

### **Treatment:**

- ◆ Your health care provider will recommend appropriate treatment. Typically a pediculocide lotion is applied to the skin covering the entire body. Follow the directions from your health care provider and/or the package insert carefully.
- ◆ Your health care provider will recommend who else should be treated in addition to the person with scabies
- ◆ Vacuuming your furniture and home environment is the safest and best way to prevent the spread of scabies from furniture and unwashables.
- ◆ Laundering bed linen, bath towels and clothing in hot water is very important.

### **Exclusion from school:**

- ◆ A student is excluded until diagnosis has been verified by a health care provider and treatment has occurred.
- ◆ Itching may continue for as long as two to three weeks after treatment. This is normal and is not a reason to exclude the student from school.
- ◆ No new burrows or rashes should appear 24-48 hours after effective treatment.

### **More Information:**

- ◆ Call your school nurse at your child's school or at the district office, 687-0431.
- ◆ Call your health care provider.
- ◆ Call Panhandle Health District at 667-3481.