

Dear Parent:

A student in your child's class has recently been diagnosed and treated for scabies. Scabies is an infestation of the skin by a little bug or mite (*Sarcoptes Scabei*). This condition is spread by direct contact with the affected skin or by immediate contact with contaminated items such as clothing or bedding. In children, overnight stays or the sharing of clothing may be a source of spread. Scabies is not as easy to catch as head lice or other common conditions in school aged children. Anyone can catch scabies regardless of cleanliness, age, race, or other factors.

It takes about 4 weeks from the time of contact for severe itching to appear. The female mite burrows into the skin and lays 2 to 3 eggs daily for up to two months. A rash may appear on the skin. Burrows from the mites may be visible as straight or curved, brown or black, or threadlike lesions often S-shaped and are most commonly observed between the fingers and on the wrists, elbows, or under the arms. One classic sign of scabies is increased itching at night. Complications from scabies are limited to secondary infection of the skin: vesicles, redness, weeping, and crusting. A doctor can confirm a diagnosis of scabies by examining a skin scraping under a microscope. Treatment consists of the application of a lotion available by prescription that kills the scabies.

Please monitor your child for any skin complaints or itching especially at night during the next few weeks. Please contact your physician or school nurse if you have any questions. .

Sincerely,

School Nurse