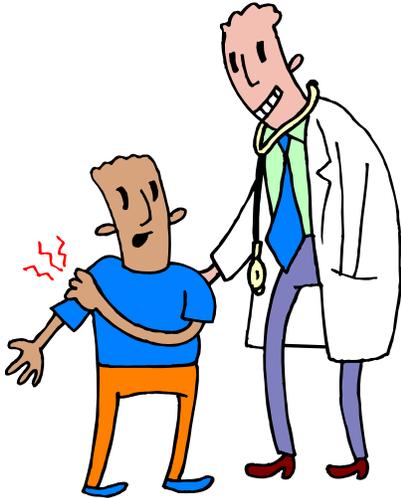


# SCABIES

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## What is **Scabies**?



**Scabies** is an infestation of the skin with the microscopic mite. Infestation is common, found worldwide, and affects people of all races and social classes. Scabies spreads rapidly under crowded conditions where there is frequent skin-to-skin contact between people, such as in hospitals, institutions, childcare facilities and nursing homes.

## What are the symptoms of **scabies**?

- Pimple-like irritations, burrows or rash of the skin, especially the webbing between the fingers; the skin folds on the wrist, elbows, knee or shoulder blades
- Intense itching, especially at night and over most of the body.
- Sores on the body caused by scratching.

## How do you get it?

By direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with a person already infected with scabies. Contact must be prolonged (*a quick handshake or hug usually will not spread scabies*). Scabies is easily spread to household

members. Scabies can also be spread by sharing clothing, towels, and bedding

## Did my pet spread **scabies** to me? No.

Pets become infected with a different kind of scabies mite. If your pet is infested with scabies (also called mange) and they have close contact with you, the mite can get under your skin and cause itching and skin irritation. However, the mite dies in a couple of days and does not reproduce. The mites may cause you to itch for several days, but you do not need to be treated with special medication to kill the mites. Until your pet is successfully treated, mites can continue to burrow into your skin and cause you to have.

## Can **scabies** be treated?

Yes. Several lotions are available to treat scabies. Always follow the package directions provided by your physician or the directions on the package insert. Apply lotion to a clean body from the neck down to the toes and leave on overnight (8 hours). After eight hours, take a bath or shower. Put on clean clothes. All clothes, bedding and towels should be washed in hot water and placed in a hot dryer.

## Who should be treated for **scabies**?

Anyone diagnosed with scabies and persons having close, prolonged contact to the infested person should also be treated. If your health care provider has instructed family members to be treated, everyone should receive treatment at the same time to prevent reinfestation.