

Scabies Fact Sheet



What is scabies?

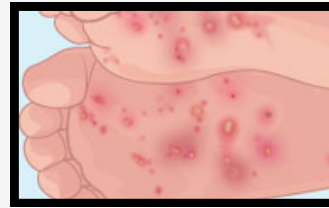
Scabies is a common skin condition caused by microscopic mites that burrow into the skin, laying eggs and leaving waste. This triggers an allergic reaction, leading to itchy bumps and blisters.

What are the signs & symptoms of scabies?

The primary symptom of scabies is intense itching, often worsening at night and disrupting sleep. Other symptoms include: bumps or blisters resembling bug bites or pimples; burrow tracks appearing as wavy, raised lines; thickened, scaly, scratched, and scabbed skin; irritability and poor feeding in young children

Where do scabies typically appear?

Scabies typically appear on the hands and feet (especially the webs of skin between the fingers and toes), the inner part of the wrists and the folds in the elbows and under the arms, waistline and groin area, and in children younger than 2, on the scalp, face, neck, palms of hands, and soles of feet



Signs on
the skin

How is scabies diagnosed?

Doctors diagnose scabies by examining symptoms and may scrape the skin to check for mites or eggs under a microscope.

How is scabies treated?

Doctors typically treat scabies by prescribing a medicated cream or lotion to eradicate the mites or may opt for oral medication for older children. They may suggest antihistamines or steroid creams to alleviate itching.

Are scabies contagious?

Scabies is a contagious condition that spreads through close, prolonged physical contact and occasionally through shared towels, bedding, and clothing.

Be sure to follow your child's return school's policies and procedures.

Can scabies be prevented?

Treat household members and close contacts simultaneously to prevent scabies spread. Wash clothes, sheets, and towels in hot water, and seal unwashable items in plastic bags for at least 3 days. Vacuum rooms and discard the vacuum bag.

What are the risk factors?

Scabies can be transmitted to anyone through close, personal contact, often skin-to-skin. Scabies can easily spread in crowded conditions with frequent close body contact.

What else do I need to know?

If your child scratches the itchy skin, it can lead to bacterial infection. Visit the doctor if you see like redness, swelling, or pus appear.

Sources

kidshealth.org/en/parents/scabies.html?ref=search,
cdc.gov/scabies/about/index.html