

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Some suspected cases of scabies have recently been identified in our district. Scabies is a disease of the skin caused by burrowing of the scabies mite. The mite is transmitted through direct skin-to-skin contact or through sharing of an infested person's personal items such as clothing or bedding.

Please observe your child for intense itching (especially at night) and rash. The rash can usually be seen in the following places:

Between the webs and sides of the fingers	Wrists	Armpits
Elbows	Chest	Groin
Lower buttocks	Waist	Thighs

Infants may experience the rash on the:

Face Scalp Lower buttocks Palms of the hands Soles of the feet

Symptoms usually appear within **two to six weeks** after coming into contact with a person who has scabies. Persons who have had scabies before may have symptoms appear within one to four days.

#### **Treatment Recommendations:**

If you are concerned that your child or anyone else in your family may have scabies, please see your healthcare provider. If necessary, your healthcare provider will prescribe medication that can kill the scabies mite. Usually one application of a prescription scabicide is sufficient to treat scabies. It is recommended that if your child has scabies, the entire family should be treated. Please discuss this with your healthcare provider.

#### **Cleaning and Disinfecting:**

Washable items such as clothing, bedding, and towels can be disinfected by washing the items in hot water and detergent. Wash water temperature should be set to the highest temperature possible. Use the hot setting on the dryer to dry the items for at least 20 minutes.

Non-washable items such as shoes, coats, jackets and scarves can be disinfected in one of two ways: 1) place the items in a dryer for at least 20 minutes on the hot setting; or 2) seal the items in a plastic bag for seven days.

Fumigating rooms and using insecticidal sprays on furniture, infant carriers, child car seats and carpets are NOT recommended for cases of common scabies. Thorough cleaning and vacuuming of these items is sufficient.

#### **Attendance:**

Children who have scabies are excluded from school and/or extracurricular activities until the treatment has been completed.

Our district is working closely with staff from the Cumberland County Health Department to manage this issue. We have implemented all recommendations made by the Health Department including this notification, monitoring of students and building cleaning and disinfecting practices.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school nurse.