



## Scabies

**Your child may have been exposed to this disease**

*If your child has symptoms, please contact your child's healthcare provider.*

### **If my child has this disease, when can he or she return to school or child care?**

A child with scabies **may NOT return** to school or child care **until the day after they received treatment.**

#### **Bugs, called mites, on the skin, cause scabies.**

Symptoms are:

- Severe itching, especially at night
- A rash that looks like pimples
- Sores caused by scratching
- Tiny burrows, which look like a white or skin-colored lines. These are usually found in skin folds, in the webs of fingers, and on wrists and elbows.

Symptoms usually start 2 to 6 weeks after a person is exposed. If a person has had scabies before, symptoms may show up as early as 1 to 4 days after that person is exposed.

Scabies can cause a severe infestation in the body,

#### **What can I do now?**

**Watch your child for symptoms of scabies.** If your child gets scabies, tell your child's school, and call your child's doctor or health care provider for treatment. In addition, all people who live in the same household might want to get scabies treatment. Talk to your doctor or health care provider. A child with a weakened immune system or an elderly adult who has been exposed or shows symptoms of scabies should contact the doctor **immediately**.

#### **If your child gets sick, prevent others from getting sick by:**

- Keeping your child at home until they finish treatment. All people who live in the same house might want to get scabies treatment—talk to your doctor or health care provider.
- Washing all clothing, bedding, and towels in hot water.
- Placing stuffed animals in sealed plastic bags for 2 weeks to kill the bugs.
- Vacuuming mattresses and upholstered furniture, and immediately disposing of the vacuum bag after.

called "crusted scabies," in elderly adults or anyone with immune system problems that make it hard to fight off infection.

#### **How are scabies spread?**

- Extended skin-to-skin contact with someone with scabies. (Brief hugs and handshakes rarely spread scabies.)
- Sharing clothes, towels, and bedding.

A person can spread scabies until they get treatment, even if they do not have symptoms. After treatment, itching may last for 2 to 3 weeks, but scabies should no longer spread to others.