



# PUBLIC FACT SHEET

## SCABIES

### What is scabies?

Scabies is a skin infection caused by a very small mite.

### How is scabies spread?

Scabies may be spread through the following ways:

- Direct contact with an infected person
- Less commonly by sharing clothing or bedding with an infected person

### What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- Itching, especially at night
- Rashes-the burrow looks like a pencil mark
- Abrasions from scratching and digging

### How is scabies diagnosed?

A doctor can diagnose scabies by looking at the skin rash. Scrapings from the skin can also be examined under a microscope.

### What is the treatment for scabies?

Prescription cream or lotion must be applied over the entire body. Household members may also need to be treated. Itching may continue for 2-3 weeks after treatment. This may be helped by cool baths or by using calamine lotion.

### How can I prevent scabies?

Avoid contact with infected people.

### For more information on (Enter Disease Name Here):

Ottawa County Health Department

[www.miOttawa.org](http://www.miOttawa.org)

Medline Plus/National Institutes of Health

[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000830.htm](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000830.htm)