Scabies

What are scabies and how are they spread?

Scabies are an itch mite. They quickly burrow under the skin when you come into close contact with someone who is infected the scabies. You can contract them either by skin to skin contact or from personal hygiene items, touching clothing or bedding that have been infected.

How can I treat them?

You must see a healthcare provider for a prescription medication to rid yourself or loved ones from Scabies. It is strongly encouraged to treat the entire family. All bedding, linens, clothing worn by the individual must be either laundered in hot water and hot dryer or dry-cleaned. If items (i.e. stuffed animals etc) cannot be laundered then place them in a plastic bag for at least 7 days. Scabies can survive without human contact for up to 36 hours. Scabies will not go away on their own. ***They must be treated with a prescription medication.***

Scabies are not Lice and medication sold over the counter for Lice treatment is not strong enough to kill Scabies. There is currently no nonprescription medication to treat Scabies.

Non-prescription medication for itching:

Oral antihistamines (such as Benadryl)

Corticosteroid creams (such as hydrocortisone cream) only use this medication after your doctor has seen and diagnosed your condition.

How soon after treatment will I feel better?

Itching may continue for 2-3 weeks, and does not mean that you are still infested. Your health care provider may prescribe additional medication to relieve itching if it is severe.

Scabies are contagious and you can spread them to others before and after you develop symptoms yourself. Seek medical attention for yourself and your family as soon as you know you were exposed. Treat all household members, clean all items as described above.