Dear parent or guardian:

Your child recently may have been exposed to **scabies**. Scabies is a skin condition caused by mites burrowing into the skin and causing a rash. The mites are invisible to the eye.

Children with scabies can typically return to school or childcare the day after they start treatment.

# Symptoms

Scabies causes a rash in the folds of the fingers, toes, armpits, elbows, wrists, waistline, abdomen, and groin. Children younger than 2 years may show rash anywhere on the body. It takes about 4–6 weeks for symptoms to show when infected for the first time.

# Spread

Scabies spreads by close and extended contact with an infected person. Sharing household items, like clothing, towels, and bedding, can also spread scabies.

# Diagnosis and treatment

A healthcare provider can diagnose scabies based on the rash. Scabies is treated with a prescription cream. Family members and very close contacts should be treated at the same time, even if they don’t have symptoms.

# Prevention

* Wash bedding, towels, pillows, and stuffed animals that were in close contact with the skin during the 3 days before treatment.
* Wash clothing worn during the 3 days before treatment.
* Wash items in hot water in a washing machine and then dry in the dryer on the hot setting.
* Get items that can’t go in hot water dry cleaned or place them in sealed plastic bags for at least 4 days.

# Learn more

For more info, contact a healthcare provider.