

News From The Nurse

11/8/11

Dear Parents:

There has been a confirmed case of scabies in your child's school building. Scabies is commonly referred to as "the itch". It is an infestation of a type of tiny mite, of which the female burrows under the skin and lays eggs. Scabies is transmitted from person to person through personal contact (direct skin-to-skin contact). Clothing/bedding/furniture with which an infested person has had prolonged contact may also transfer the disease.

A red, itchy rash is common with scabies infestation. The itch will often seem worse at night. The hands, feet, abdomen, and genitals are common areas of the body to be affected. Thread-like burrow marks are sometimes able to be seen on the skin. A doctor can diagnose scabies by scraping the skin of the infested person and viewing it under a microscope. An ink test is another way to diagnose scabies.

The Ohio Department of Health recommends that anyone who has been exposed to scabies should seek the attention of their physician or local Health Department. Scabies is treated with a prescription pesticide cream or ointment, which is applied directly to the entire body surface for 8 hours, after having a hot, soapy shower. A second treatment may be necessary 10 days after the first treatment. Family members of the infested person are typically treated for scabies, even if they do not show symptoms. Extra housekeeping, such as laundering clothing and bedding in hot, soapy water and drying on the hot setting and sweeping all carpets and upholstered furniture, is also treatment for scabies.

If your child has signs of scabies or has been exposed to scabies, please contact your physician or the Highland County Health Department at 393-1941. If you have questions regarding scabies, feel free to contact your school nurse or the Highland County Health Department.

As a preventative measure at school, we ask that you have your child bring home any gym clothing or sweat shirts/jackets and routinely launder them.

Thank You,

Rachel Wallace, School Nurse

