

Scabies

Scabies is an itchy skin condition caused by a tiny, eight-legged burrowing mite. The presence of the mite leads to intense itching in the areas of it burrows which can cause bacterial skin infections. The tiny burrows (short, wavy, dirty-looking lines) contain the mites and their eggs. These sores and burrows are seen commonly around finger webs, creases in wrists and elbows, belt lines and genitals of men and lower buttocks of women. In infants, the head, neck, palms, soles and buttocks may also be involved.

Mites are usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact and infested clothing and bed linen. The mite can survive off the body a few days.

If you find evidence of scabies on your child, please see your healthcare provider for treatment and contact your school nurse *immediately*.