

Scabies Home Treatment

Iowa State University

Thielen Student Health Center



IF YOU HAVE HAD A KNOWN EXPOSURE, CONTACT A PROVIDER FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT.

Symptoms can typically take 4-8 weeks to develop after they are infested; however they can still spread scabies during this time.

In addition to the infested person, treatment also is recommended for household members, sexual contacts and individuals that have had prolonged direct skin-to-skin contact with the infested person.

Both sexual and close personal contacts who have had direct prolonged skin-to-skin contact with an infested person within the preceding month should be examined and treated. **All persons should be treated at the same time to prevent re-infestation.**

Bedding, clothing, and towels used by infested persons or their household, sexual, and close contacts anytime during the three days before treatment should be decontaminated by washing in hot water and drying in a hot dryer, by dry-cleaning, or by sealing in a plastic bag for at least 72 hours. Scabies mites generally do not survive more than 2 to 3 days away from human skin.

Use of insecticide sprays and fumigants is not recommended.

MEDICATIONS USED TO TREAT SCABIES

Scabicides used to treat human scabies are available only with a doctor's prescription. No "over-the-counter" (non-prescription) products have been tested and approved to treat scabies.

Scabicide lotion or cream should be applied to all areas of the body from the neck down to the feet and toes. The lotion or cream should be applied to a clean body and left on for the recommended time before washing it off. Clean clothing should be worn after treatment.

Because the symptoms of scabies are due to a hypersensitivity reaction (allergy) to mites and their feces (scybala), itching still may continue for several weeks after treatment even if all the mites and eggs are killed.

If itching still is present more than 2 to 4 weeks after treatment or if new burrows or pimple-like rash lesions continue to appear, re-treatment may be necessary.

Skin sores that become infected should be treated with an appropriate antibiotic prescribed by a doctor.

If you have any questions or concerns consult your provider or contact the Thielen Student Health Center at (515) 294-5801.