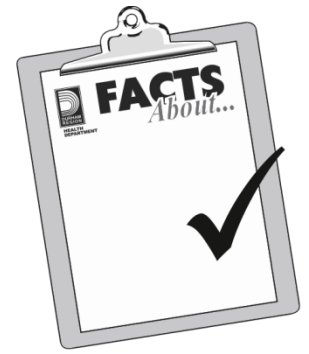




FACTS

About...



HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Scabies

What is it?

Scabies is an infestation of the skin by mites, which are tiny insects that burrow into the upper layer of skin to lay eggs. The body reacts to the mite by causing extremely itchy skin.

How is it spread?

Scabies is spread by direct contact with the skin of a person who has scabies or from sharing clothing, bedding or towels which may be infested. Mites can live away from the human skin for up to 3 days.

What do I look for?

Mites are hard to see. White, curvy, thread-like lines, tiny red bumps or scratch marks on the skin are usually the only sign of infestation. The most common sites of infestation are elbows, abdomen, buttocks, thighs, genital area and between fingers. The skin is extremely itchy and may be worse at night. It may take up to 6 weeks before the red lines appear or before the itching develops. Scabies does not usually affect the scalp or face. **To find out if you have scabies, see your doctor.**

How is it treated?

Medications are available at the pharmacy without a prescription. Directions should be followed carefully. **Do not treat more often than recommended.**

Itching may last for 1-2 weeks after treatment. This is caused by the dead mites and eggs under the skin. The itch will clear as the skin sheds naturally.

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For more information

Durham Region Health Department

905-666-6241 1-800-841-2729 durham.ca

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



*Scabies can be
treated without a
prescription*

On the same day as treatment:

- Collect all clothes, towels and bed linens used in the last 72 hours by the person – wash items in hot water and dry at hottest setting – items that cannot be washed can be stored in an airtight plastic bag for 1 week to kill the mites.
- All household members and close contacts of the infected person should be treated for scabies to prevent further spread.
- Children should stay home from school or day care until the day after treatment.

How can I protect myself?

- Treat all household contacts.
- Keep fingernails short to help prevent infection caused by scratching.
- Do not share clothes, towels or other personal items.

More information can be obtained from Durham Region Health Department,
Environmental Help Line 905-723-3818 ext. 2188 or 1-888-777-9613

November 18, 2019

For more information

Durham Region Health Department

905-666-6241 1-800-841-272 durham.ca

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