

Frequently Asked Questions about Scabies

What is scabies and how does one get it?

Scabies is a common parasitic insect infestation that creates an intensely itchy rash. It can be spread from person to person through prolonged physical contact. Scabies mites can survive in resident clothing and other fabrics for several days before dying.

Why is this not an outbreak?

Currently there is no widespread confirmation of scabies. However, the home is acting to help prevent spreading within the home.

How does permethrin work to treat scabies?

Permethrin is an antiparasitic lotion or cream that kills scabies. It is applied for eight to 14 hours and washed off by bath or shower.

How long will a home area be in isolation?

All home areas are in contact isolation until treatment of a home area is complete. As home areas complete treatment, their isolation will be removed.

What does isolation mean for residents?

During contact isolation, all care providers must wear personal protective equipment (gowns and gloves in addition to their regular masking). Residents are free to travel about their home areas but not throughout the building. Visitors are limited to one essential caregiver per resident at a time. No group activities are occurring outside of communal dining.

During the three-day treatment window, residents will be isolated to their room until treatment is complete and their rooms have been cleaned.

Why are resident clothes and fabrics bagged?

Bagging resident clothes and fabric surfaces for seven days will ensure that all hidden scabies mites are killed and prevent any from escaping to other surfaces. Though high temperature washing and drying can also kill mites, bagging is the most efficient way to kill all the mites for an entire home area.

What will residents wear during the seven days their clothes are bagged?

Residents will be given gowns to wear. Blankets will be provided to ensure residents are safely covered and warm.

Can a resident leave the home?

Residents may only leave the home for medical absences. All absences must be approved by a manager.

What if I think I might have a rash?

Your primary care provider is the best person to consult if you think you might have a rash. Permethrin cream is available over the counter in local drug stores.