



District Superintendent  
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# Winton School District

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

There have been several cases of scabies in your child's school recently. Below is some information you may find helpful regarding this condition. Please contact the school nurse at your child's school if you have any questions.

### **SCABIES DEFINITION**

Scabies is a common infestation of the skin caused by the itch mite. This parasite is spread by close contact with the skin, clothing, or bedding of an infected person. Symptoms may appear anytime from several days to several weeks after contact.

### **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

Scabies causes severe itching, which is often most intense at night (it can awaken the child). Infants are usually infected on the palms, soles, head, neck and face. Adults and other children are generally affected on the hands, wrists, elbows, buttocks, genitals, and between the fingers and toes.

Affected skin may have tiny burrows (these look like raised lines or scratches), bumps, blisters, or scaly patches. In other cases, the skin looks like it has been severely scratched and is raw and bleeding.

### **TREATMENT**

If you suspect that your child has scabies, see your doctor. If scabies is diagnosed, your doctor will prescribe a medication that you can apply to kill the mites. Frequently, all family members are treated.

Wash or dry clean all clothing and bedding, since the mite can live away from humans for two or three days.

Twenty-four hours after treatment has begun, your child should no longer be contagious and can return to school or day-care. The itching may persist for weeks after the mites have been killed because of sensitivity to the mite or mite feces. Your doctor may prescribe a medication to help reduce the itching.

Sincerely,

***Diane Gannon***

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