



November 30, 2016

General Information regarding Scabies

You may be aware that we have had some isolated cases of scabies in some of our buildings. These cases have been isolated to particular classrooms and those parents have already been notified. However, in an effort to further prevent the spread of this contagious disease we are asking that all be aware and monitor students for the symptoms listed below and notify your student(s) building office if your child has developed symptoms or has been confirmed by trained medical personnel to have scabies.

Scabies is spread from skin to skin contact and the close sharing of personal items so, we would also like to stress that students not share personal items and we ask that you stress this to your child(ren). The District has cleaned the building multiple times and is taking necessary preventive measures as appropriate both at these buildings and on our school buses.

Scabies is a disease of the skin caused by burrowing of the scabies mite. The mite is transmitted through direct skin-to-skin contact and/or through sharing of an infested person's personal items such as clothing or bedding. Although infestation is not life threatening, scabies is a "nuisance" disease not labeled a "communicable" disease that is commonly found in schools, health care facilities, daycare facilities, etc... The information provided below has been created to provide sensible recommendations by addressing diagnosis, treatment, prevention and outbreak management. This brief document is intended to educate parents about precaution, checking, treating if effective, and notifying the school if there is a concern so that we can all be informed and work toward proactive procedures that will provide solutions to reduce or prevent the spread of the disease. For information about scabies and its prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and if necessary, procurement of the medication, **contact your medical health care provider and the appropriate state and/or local health department.** Additional information can be obtained by accessing the following links:

http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/gen_info/index.html

http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/gen_info/faqs.html

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/scabies_manual_130866_7.pdf

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/treatment.html>

Symptoms:

Please observe for intense itching (especially at night) and rash. The rash can usually be seen in the following places:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * Between webs and sides of fingers | * Genitalia |
| * Wrists | * Lower buttocks |
| * Elbows | Infants may experience rash on the: |
| * Armpits | * Face |
| * Breasts | * Scalp |
| * Waist | * Palms of the hands |
| * Thighs | * Soles of the feet |

Symptoms usually appear within two to six weeks after coming in contact with a person who has scabies. Persons who have had scabies before may have symptoms appear within one to four days. The contagious period is "until mites are destroyed by chemical treatment; prescription skin and oral medications and generally effective after one treatment."

Treatment Recommendations

If you are concerned that you, or anyone else in your family may have scabies, please see your family doctor. Your doctor will be able to prescribe medications that can kill the scabies mite. Usually one application of a prescription scabicide is adequate to treat scabies. It is recommended that if a child has scabies, the entire family should be treated. Please discuss this with your doctor.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

Washable items such as clothing bedding and towels can be disinfected by washing the items in hot water and detergent. Wash water temperature should be set to the highest temperature possible. Use the hot setting on the dryer to dry the items *for at least 20 minutes*.

Non-washable items such as shoes, coats, jackets, and scarves can be disinfected in one of three ways: 1) place the items in a dryer *for at least 20 minutes* on the hot setting; or 2) seal the items in a plastic bag *for one week (7 days)* at room temperature or hotter; or 3) seal the items in a plastic bag and *freeze them for 12 hours*.

Fumigating rooms and using insecticidal sprays on furniture, infant carriers, child car seats and carpets are not *recommended for cases of common scabies*. Thorough cleaning and vacuuming of these items is sufficient.

Attendance

Anyone who has scabies should not attend school and/or extracurricular activities until the treatment has been completed.

Summary;

Schools can play a major role in helping to reduce or prevent the incidence of illness among children and adults in our communities. Encouraging good hand hygiene, controlling environmental contaminants, and following cleaning recommendations contribute to a safe and healthy learning environment for children and staff.

Handwashing Procedures

Washing your hands is one of the easiest and best ways to prevent the spread of diseases. Hands should be washed frequently including after toileting, coming into contact with bodily fluids (such as nose wiping), before eating and handling food, and any time hands are soiled. It is also important that children's hands be washed frequently. Water basins and pre-moistened cleansing wipes are not approved substitutes for soap and running water. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol may be used when soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly soiled. However, sanitizers do not eliminate all types of germs so they should be used to supplement handwashing with soap and water. The general handwashing procedure includes the following steps:

- Wet hands under warm running water
- Apply soap
- Vigorously rub hands together for at least 20 seconds to lather all surfaces of the hands. Pay special attention to cleaning under fingernails and thumbs
- Thoroughly rinse hands under warm running water
- Dry hands using a single-use disposable towel or an air dryer
- Turn off the faucet with the disposable towel, your wrists, or the backs of your hands

*****Please refer questions to your physician or local county health department.**

Again, we want to do everything we can here at school to keep everyone healthy. We look forward to your partnership in doing so and appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Public Schools