

## Public Health Guidelines for Scabies Outbreaks Management

Date: 10 April, 2018

---

**Outbreak Definition:** two or more epidemiologically-linked consecutive cases of scabies within 4-6 week.

REMEMBER: Outbreaks are immediately reportable to your public health department.

---

### Case Definition:

**Confirmed case:** is an individual who has skin scraping with identified mites, mite eggs or mite feces (if not accessible, clinical diagnosis by a dermatologist or an experienced family physician is acceptable).

**Probable case:** is an individual with clinical symptoms of scabies (persistent pruritic rash).

**Contact case:** is anyone with a close skin-to-skin contact with a case

---

**Incubation Period:** 2-6 weeks for first time infection and 1-4 days for repeated infection.

---

**Communicability:** 2 weeks after the original infestation even with asymptomatic individuals.

A patient is no longer infectious 24 hours after effective treatment

---

### Outbreak management:

1. Confirm the diagnosis: refer to a dermatologist and report to your public health department.
  2. Begin line listing of symptomatic persons and their contact (as per case definitions), and follow them for the duration of outbreak (until you have no new case for two incubation periods 6-12 weeks).
  3. Conduct a thorough search for unrecognized cases
  4. Institute mass education and provide information to staff and family members.
  5. Isolate confirmed and suspected cases under contact precautions and exclude from social activities until 24 hours after treatment.
  6. Cases should be simultaneously treated with contacts to avoid reinfection.
-

## Treatment

Confirmed or probable case:

- Topical treatment:
  - On Day 1, Apply 5% Permethrin cream to all skin areas from the neck down and under nails.
  - On Day 2 bathe or shower to remove the cream and note that itching may continue for weeks.
  - Day 14 and Day 28: reexamine and retreat if there are persistent or recurrent lesions.
- Alternative treatment:
  - On day 1: Ivermectin 3 mg tab (children <5y 1 tab PO, children  $\geq$  5 y 2 tab PO, adults 4 tabs PO) once.
  - Day 7, retreat using same dose.

Asymptomatic contacts to a confirmed or probable case:

- On Day 1, Apply 5% Permethrin cream to all skin areas from the neck down and under nails.
  - Alternative treatment: On day 1: Ivermectin tab (children <5y 1 tab PO, children  $\geq$  5 y 2 tab PO, adults 4 tabs PO) once.
- 

Environmental measures:

- Machine wash and dry bedding and clothing of scabies patients using the hot water and hot dryer cycles.
  - Items that cannot be laundered or dry cleaned should be placed in sealed plastic bags for 7 days.
  - Routine cleaning and vacuuming should provide adequate environmental control.
- 

For further questions or information contact the General Directorate of Infectious Disease through 937.