

Dear Parents,

The safety and wellness of our students is a top priority. Scabies is one of several skin conditions cause itching and rashes. Scabies is contagious and can spread very easily from person to person through close physical contact. It is the recommendation of CPS's Office of Student Health & Wellness if a student is diagnosed with scabies, rooms used by the student will be thoroughly cleaned and vacuumed. Diagnosis and treatment are made by a student's medical provider.

Below is additional background information that you may find helpful.

Scabies

Scabies is an infestation of the skin by an insect called the human itch mite. The most common symptoms of scabies are intense itching and a pimple-like skin rash. The scabies mite usually is spread by direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with a person who has scabies. However, it may also be spread exposure to bedding, clothing, or even upholstered furniture that an infested person has used. Scabies is prevented by avoiding direct skin-to-skin contact with an infested person or with items such as clothing or bedding used by an infested person.

Scabies is treated with a special cream by a doctor's prescription. Treatment usually is recommended for members of the same household, particularly for those who have had prolonged skin-to-skin contact. All household members and other potentially exposed persons should be treated at the same time as the infested person to prevent possible re-exposure and re-infestation. Bedding and clothing worn or used next to the skin anytime during the 3 days before treatment should be machine washed and dried using the hot water and hot dryer cycles or be dry-cleaned. Items that cannot be dry-cleaned or laundered can be disinfested by storing in a closed plastic bag for several days to a week. Scabies mites generally do not survive more than 2 to 3 days away from human skin. Infested children can return to school the day after treatment.

For more details, see www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies.

For more information please contact the Office of Student Health & Wellness; 773-553-KIDS (5437) or the Chicago Department of Public Health (312-747-9884).