

Scabies

Scabies is caused by a mite which buries itself under the top layer of skin. You may be able to see lines (burrows) or circles (nodes) where the mite has gone under the skin. Scabies causes a severe itch that usually gets worse at night. You can have scabies anywhere on the body, but it is common on the wrists, hands and thighs.

Scabies is usually spread by skin-to-skin contact. It can also be spread by sexual contact, or contact with items, that an infected person uses (contaminated belongings), like sheets and towels. It can take as long as 2-6 weeks between the time you are exposed to scabies and the time itching starts.

If you think that a child has scabies, call your doctor. He can confirm the illness and tell you what treatment to follow. A child with scabies should be kept out of school until 24 hours after treatment starts.

In hot water, wash all bedding and clothing and then dry in a hot dryer. For items that cannot be washed, place them in a sealed plastic bag for 4-5 days. The mite will not live outside the human body for that long.

Prevention

To limit the spread of impetigo, pink eye, ringworm and scabies, follow these suggestions.

- Wash hands often.
- Use separate towels and washcloths.
- Avoid close contact with an infected person.
- Launder contaminated items in hot water and use a hot dryer.
- Check all family members for signs of illness.
- You may have to treat all family members.



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Impetigo

Pink Eye

Ringworm

Scabies

Impetigo

Parents often think that impetigo is fever blisters or cold sores. The infection usually appears near the mouth, starting as a thin blister, full of fluid. The blister gets bigger and the fluid forms a thick crust. Impetigo is also often found on the hands. It then may be spread to the rest of the body by scratching.

Impetigo is spread by contact with the secretion (fluid) from the sores or by contact with items used by an infected person (contaminated belongings), like towels or sheets.

If you think that a child has impetigo, call your doctor. He can confirm the illness, and tell you what treatment to follow. A child should be kept home until treatment starts.

Be sure to wash all contaminated items in hot water and dry in a hot dryer.

Infectious Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)

The disease commonly known as pink eye is the swelling of the mucous lining of the eyelids and eyeball. The lids become red and swollen. There may also be a thick yellow discharge. Usually both eyes are involved, and symptoms appear about 36 hours after infection.

Pink eye is spread by direct contact with the discharge from the eye or by contact with items used by an infected person (contaminated belongings) like towels, tissues, or clothing.

If you think that a child has pink eye, call your doctor. Pink eye can lead to serious injury to the eyes if not treated. Your doctor will tell you what treatment to follow. A child should be kept home until 24 hours after treatment has begun or when discharge from the eyes stops.

Be sure to wash all contaminated items in hot water and dry in a hot dryer.

Ringworm

Ringworm causes slightly-raised, itchy, ring-shaped sores. These sores can appear anywhere on the body. Ringworm is not caused by a worm, but a fungus.

Ringworm is spread by skin-to-skin contact or by contact with items used by an infected person (contaminated belongings) such as towels, clothing, and floors.

If you think that a child has ringworm, call your doctor. He can confirm the illness and tell you what type of medication to use. In general, a child should be kept out of school until 24 hours after treatment starts. However, if the sores can be covered by a bandage or clothing, a child can remain in school.

Be sure to wash all contaminated items in hot water and dry in a hot dryer.