



December 19, 2018

Scabies Prevention and Control

Dear Parent:

Chadron Public Schools has been notified that two individuals have been diagnosed and treated for Scabies, which is a human itch mite similar to lice. The microscopic mite attacks the skin causing itching and a pimple-like rash. A fact sheet on Scabies is enclosed. Chadron Public schools has consulted with Panhandle Public Health District. The recommendation is to do standard daily cleaning procedures by vacuuming and disinfectant in the classroom.

Scabies can be spread by direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with someone who has scabies. The symptoms can take 4-8 weeks after being infested. Persons usually can return to childcare, school, or work the day after treatment. The mite needs a human host to survive. It cannot live on surfaces or in garments for longer than 2-3 days. Scabies occurs worldwide and affects all races and social classes. Scabies can spread rapidly under crowded conditions but requires close body contact or sharing of clothing. For more information about Scabies you can also visit [HYPERLINK "https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/" \t "_blank"](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/) <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/>.

Parents should watch for signs and symptoms to be treated right away if Scabies is suspected. Contact your provider if you have signs and symptoms. Scabies should be treated with topical creams that can kill the mites. Wash all clothing and bedding similar to treating for lice. Items that cannot be washed can be placed in a closed plastic bag for several days.

Encourage your child to wash their hands throughout the day to prevent scabies and many other illnesses. It is the best way to prevent the spread of disease.

If you have further questions, please contact Panhandle Public Health District by phone 308-262-2217 or toll free 855-227-2217, by e-mail mleisy@pphd.org or by contacting your physician.

Sincerely,

Melody J. Leisy BSN, RN
Panhandle Public Health District