

# From the School Nurse...

*Mamaroneck Union Free School District*

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## EXPOSURE NOTICE Scabies

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child may have been exposed to scabies. Scabies is a skin infestation caused by a tiny mite (too small to be seen by the naked eye) which burrows into the skin, where it lays eggs. It can take anywhere from 30 to 60 days to develop the characteristic lesions once the mite has burrowed into the skin. The lesions are usually whitish to reddish bumps that often occur in a line. This results in intense itching, particularly at night and scratching results in the formation of scabs and sores.

Scabies is a contagious nuisance, especially amongst young children since they are often in close contact with one another. Prolonged contact with an infected person is the primary mode of transmission.

Scabies is easy to cure. Treatment involves speaking with your physician who will prescribe a medication (lotion, ointment) that you will apply from the chin to the toes covering the entire body. Always be sure to follow the instructions on the package insert. The medicine is to be kept on for several hours followed by a bath/shower. This medicine kills any mites or eggs that might be present. The average infestation will be cured with just one application. Bed linens and all of the child's clothing should be thoroughly washed as well.

Please contact your doctor if you think your child might have scabies. A doctor's note stating the diagnosis and treatment being done is needed in order for your child to return to school.

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