

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO  
SUPERINTENDENT

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
WAIKOLOA ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE  
68-1730 HO'OKO STREET  
WAIKOLOA, HI 96738**

January 25, 2019

Dear Waikoloa Elementary and Middle Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff:

A individual case of scabies have been reported at Waikoloa Elementary and Middle School. The health and safety of our students and staff are of the utmost importance and we are addressing this as a universal precaution and are advising everyone to be alert to this situation.

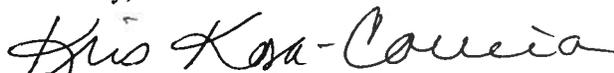
Scabies is a skin infection caused by a parasitic mite that can cause intense itching, especially overnight. Itching is the most noticeable symptom and can develop into a pimple-like rash, commonly occurring on the fingers, wrists, elbows and knees, and also on the torso. Symptoms take about two to four weeks to appear after infection. For individuals who have previously had scabies, symptoms can appear in only one to four days.

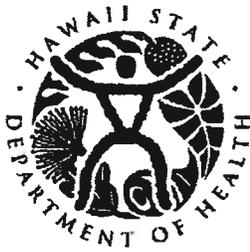
If symptoms suggesting a scabies infection present themselves, please consult your health care provider. Mild cases are treated with medicated skin cream or lotion prescribed by your doctor, followed by a hot water bath and soap. Medical treatment will be required to fully remedy a scabies infection.

Transmission is most common through prolonged direct contact with infected skin. Infestations may also occur by sharing clothing, towels and bedding. Washing clothing, towels and bedding in hot cycles of both the washer and dryer will kill mites and eggs. Thorough vacuuming of environmental surfaces is recommended. This should be done at the same time that medical treatments begin. Disinfection of school classrooms and facilities is already underway.

Thank you for your kokua in helping us by encouraging good health habits to stop the spread of germs at home, work, and school. If you have any questions about scabies, we encourage you to contact your family healthcare provider or call the state Department of Health (DOH) at 808-587-6845. For more information, please visit the DOH website at: [http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease\\_listing/scabies/](http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/scabies/).

Sincerely,

  
Kristine Kosa-Correia  
Principal



## Hawaii State Department of Health

### Disease Investigation Branch

Oahu 586-4586, Maui 984-8213, Hilo 933-0912,

Kona 322-4877, Kauai 241-3563

---

## Scabies

### What is scabies?

Scabies is a parasitic infection of the skin caused by a mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei*. The mites burrow under the skin and cause intense itching, especially at night.

### How do you get it?

Transfer of parasites commonly occurs through prolonged direct contact with infested skin and also during sexual contact. Contact must be prolonged (a quick handshake or hug will usually not spread infestation). Infestation is easily spread to sexual partners and household members. Infestation may also occur by sharing clothing, towels, and bedding. Transfer from undergarments and bedclothes occurs only if these have been contaminated by infested people immediately beforehand.

### What are the symptoms?

The most noticeable symptom of scabies is the intense itching it produces. The itching is most noticeable at the skin surface between the fingers, around the wrists, elbows or knees, armpits, nipples, belt line, abdomen, genitals (sex organs), and lower buttocks.

### When do symptoms start?

The itching usually starts 2 to 6 weeks after infestation with mites. Individuals who have had scabies previously develop symptoms 1 to 4 days following another exposure to the mites.

### What is the treatment?

A mild case of scabies is treated with a single application of a medicated skin cream prescribed by your doctor. This is followed by a hot water bath and soap. The itching is caused by the body's reaction to the mite. Because itching may continue for days or weeks after adequate treatment, it should not be used as an indication that the medication did not work.

Washing clothing, towels and bedding in hot cycles of both the washer and dryer will kill mites and eggs. Also, thorough vacuuming of environmental surfaces is recommended. This should be done at the same time that you treat for scabies with medication.

### Should persons infested with mites be excluded from work or school?

Yes. Mite-infested persons are contagious until the day after they begin treatment.

### How can you keep from getting it?

Avoid contact with an infested person until treatment is completed.

Do not share clothing, sheets or other linens belonging to a person with scabies.

For more information, see the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/scabies/>