

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
General George A. McCall Elementary School
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Cases of a skin infection called scabies have been reported in the Center City area, including at programs some of our McCall students attend. The following information about scabies is provided for your review.

What is scabies? Scabies is a skin infection that occurs when small mites called *Sarcoptes scabiei* infest the skin by burrowing into the upper layers of the epidermis.

What are the symptoms of scabies? Symptoms of scabies include rash and itchy red bumps or blisters found on the skin, most often in the skin folds between the fingers and toes, but may appear on other parts of the body. Children younger than 2 years of age are more likely to be infested on the head, neck, palms and soles of the feet. Itching is increased at night.

How is scabies spread? Scabies is spread through prolonged close personal contact and sharing of bedding, towels, and clothing. Symptoms usually appear in 4 to 6 weeks following contact with the mites.

How is scabies treated? Persons with scabies shall be EXCLUDED from school until an effective scabicide lotion or cream treatment is completed. Persons with symptoms of infection (e.g., rash, itching, blisters) should be examined by their health care provider. Preventative therapy for scabies is recommended for the household members at the same time the case is being treated. Bedding or clothing worn next to the skin during the 3 days before initiation of therapy should be washed in hot water and dried using a hot cycle.

Do I need to take an action? Please examine your child/children for signs and symptoms of scabies in the coming weeks and consult with your health care provider if needed. If your child/children have any of the symptoms of scabies described above, please do not send them to school. Please feel free to contact Bobbie Benjamin, School Nurse, at 215-351-7353 with any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

Rose Rock
Principal