Date

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child may have recently been exposed to **scabies**. Scabies is a skin condition where tiny mites burrow under the skin and cause a rash. The mites are too small to be seen with the human eye.

**What are the symptoms of scabies?**

Symptoms include a rash that is very itchy and uncomfortable, especially at night. The rash may look like red bumps or small blisters. Scratch marks from the fingernails are also common. The rash is usually seen in the skin folds of the fingers, toes, armpits, elbows, wrists, waistline and abdomen, and the creases of the groin. Children younger than two years old are likely to get a rash on the head, neck, palms, and soles of feet or all over the body. It takes about 4 to 6 weeks for symptoms to appear for those who have never been infected before. Future infestations may appear within one to four days.

**How is scabies spread?**

Scabies spreads by direct and prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with someone with scabies. Sharing common household items such as clothing, towels, and bedding can also spread scabies.

**How is scabies diagnosed and treated?**

A healthcare provider might diagnose scabies after assessing the rash. They might take a tiny scraping of the skin and look under the microscope for the mites. Scabies is treated with a prescription cream. Family members and very close contacts should be treated at the same time as the child, even if they don't have symptoms.

**How do you control the spread?**

* Wash bedding, towels, pillows, and stuffed animals that were in close contact with the skin during the three days before treatment.
* Wash clothing worn during the 3 days before treatment.
* Wash items in hot water in a washer and then dry using the hot setting.
* Items that cannot be placed in hot water should be dry cleaned or sealed in plastic bags for at least 1 week.
* Children can usually return to school or childcare the day after treatment.

**How do I get more information?**

For more information about scabies, contact your healthcare provider.