

**Sheboygan County Division of Public Health**  
**COMMUNITY SCABIES**  
**CONTROL GUIDELINES**

**PURPOSE:**

Scabies remain a community problem. They are highly communicable and transmission is challenging to prevent. A team approach is *critical* in scabies control. The team addressing the problem may include school and day care personnel, affected families, and/or public health nurses, if necessary. These guidelines outline the responsibilities recommended by the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health.

**SCHOOL/WORK SETTING RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. The school/work setting should establish at least one designee to be knowledgeable about scabies.
2. In the school/work setting, the designee is encouraged to discuss persistent rashes/skin itching with clients, family members, and close acquaintances.
3. Instruct the client to seek physician diagnosis of scabies. It is acknowledged that scabies is often difficult to diagnose. Skin scrapings viewed under a microscope remain most accurate in diagnosing scabies. Because scabies can appear in different forms, it is possible to misdiagnose a case and treat it as something else. Persons with suspicious, persistent rashes are instructed to avoid physical contact with others, and to keep rash areas covered by clothing that is changed daily.
4. Persons with rashes are encouraged to see a physician, participate in treatment and not return to the setting until that has taken place.
5. School/work setting administration will send scabies information sheets with a cover letter to those at risk of exposure. In situations where it is not feasible to notify a large number of people, close contacts of the person are to be informed of potential exposure. See attached samples.
6. Trained designee(s) will verify persons were treated for scabies prior to readmission to the school/work setting.
7. Notify Sheboygan County Division of Public Health of the diagnosis.
8. School/work setting administration will provide and maintain an environment that works to prevent the transmission of scabies.
  - A. Maintain coat racks or hooks far apart, so that coats are not touching.
  - B. Store equipment used for nap/rest separately.

- C. Discourage use of “dress-up” clothes or hats in the classroom.
- D. Discourage sharing of personal items such as combs, hats, scarves, art smocks, etc.

### **SHEBOYGAN COUNTY DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Provide consultation to the school/work setting staff and other involved individuals as needed regarding scabies treatment and control.
2. Provide consultation to school/work setting in developing a scabies control policy.

### **FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Participate in proper treatment of scabies activities to include:

- ◆ Effective application of *physician-prescribed* scabies treatment, *following manufacturer’s instructions*.
- ◆ *Complete environmental cleaning*, including any possible sources of infestation such as clothing, furniture, auto upholstery, carpeting and rugs.
- ◆ *Contact other persons* who may be affected or a source of infestation, not associated with the school/work setting.
- ◆ *Conduct routine examinations to identify persistent rashes* on family members to control scabies transmission. Consult physician if rash persists.

