

ADVISORY: Scabies at Local Congregate Living Settings

July 30, 2024

Key Points:

- Scabies is a skin condition caused by tiny bugs called mites, which dig under the skin leaving itchy rashes
- Scabies has been reported at congregate living settings in our community
- Scabies requires treatment

Symptoms:

- A very itchy rash, typically on the hands, wrists, chest, genitals, and/or waistline
- Rash may appear as crooked raised lines, made of tiny blisters or bumps
- Typically begin 4-6 weeks after first exposure; earlier if you have had scabies before

Treatment:

- Requires medication; it will not go away on its own
- Typically treated with medicated creams or lotions
- Oral medications may be used when a person has a weak immune system or there is an outbreak

Preventing Spread of Scabies:

- Wash bedding, clothing, and towels in hot water and a hot dryer
- Avoid skin-to-skin contact with others and sharing clothing/bedding/towels until treatment is complete
- Treat other residents who have had direct skin contact or shared clothing/bedding/towels

Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Infectious Disease team via phone at 705-743-1000 ext. 511 or via email at infectiousdiseases@peterboroughpublichealth.ca

Scabies Factsheet can be found at: http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-Fact-Sheet-SCABIES-Adapted-LTCH_RR.pdf