**LETTER TO PARENTS AND STAFF**

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|  **Concerning letters to parents and staff:*** No letters should be sent if the diagnosis has not been confirmed by a doctor.
* No letters should be sent without prior consent of the CLSC nurse.
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daycare or school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** **Scabies**

Dear parents,

Dear staff members,

A case of scabies has been diagnosed at your daycare or school. The attached sheet provides information about this disease.

People with the symptoms of this disease should see a doctor.

Bring this letter with you to the medical consultation.

Advise the daycare or school if the scabies diagnosis is confirmed. Your child will have to be treated before returning to daycare or school.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Please print)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Encl. Scabies information sheet

**Scabies**

**Information and advice**

**Definition**

Scabies is a skin infection caused by a parasite that penetrates the skin and digs a tunnel in order to lay its eggs and deposit its excrements. The parasite digs the tunnel slowly over the course of a few weeks, leaving small red lines, especially visible between the fingers and on the wrists, elbows, thighs and groin. Scabies does not usually reach the face or scalp, except in infants, where the symptoms can be seen on the scalp, face, palms of the hands and soles of the feet.

**Symptoms**

The symptoms of scabies include the following.

* Itching, especially at nighttime.
* Small bumps, small blisters, red lines, and sores caused by scratching.

These symptoms appear within several days to several weeks from the time of infection.

**Transmission**

The infestation is transmitted by prolonged skin-to-skin contact with an infected person or rarely, by contact with clothing or sheets when sharing a bed.

**Treatment**

All members of the family of an infected person need to be treated at the same time, whether or not they have the symptoms.

The treatment recommended by your doctor, pharmacist or the manufacturer of the medication must be followed to the letter.

Once the first treatment has been completed, people affected by scabies can reintegrate their normal environment.

**Other measures**

As soon as the course of treatment begins and whether this is at home or at the daycare or school, all clothing and bed linen from the four days preceding the start of treatment, as well as any bed linen or pyjamas used during the treatment, must all be machine-washed in hot water and machine-dried at the hottest available temperature.

Personal items that cannot be washed in hot water should be dry-cleaned or placed in a hermetically sealed plastic bag for four days.

**Important**

In some cases, the skin may continue to itch for up to 2 weeks after treatment, but this does not mean that the treatment did not work.