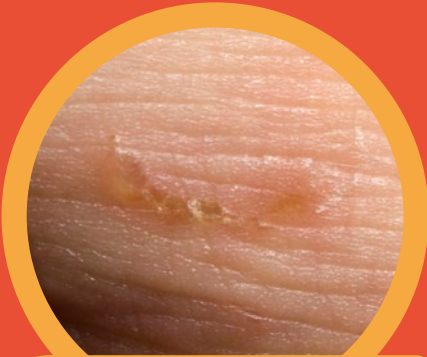




**1** Itching



**2** Mites living in the skin



**3** Distribution

# SCABIES

## PATHOGEN

An infectious skin disease caused by scabies mites. The female mites lay their eggs in the skin's horny layer and bite approximately 2.5 cm long furrows into the skin <sup>2</sup>. Separated from the host, the mites can stay alive for 1 to 2 days at a temperature of 21 degrees.

## MODE OF TRANSMISSION

Infection through close physical contact (cuddling, sleeping in the same bed, joint use of towels).

## INCUBATION PERIOD

The time from infection to outbreak of the disease is between 4 and 5 weeks.

## CLINICAL SYMPTOMS

Slight burning of the skin and itching to various degrees <sup>1</sup>, made worse by warm bedsheets.

Mosquito bite-like small red dots that may become infected through scratching.

Mostly affects skin regions between the toes and fingers, the elbow and wrist bends, the ankle region, the inner edges of the feet, the armpits and/or all skin regions covered by underwear <sup>3</sup>.

## CONTAGIOUSNESS

Contagious until treated. Mites are killed off by washing laundry at 60°C, dry-cleaning or packing it into plastic bags for 1 week. Thoroughly vacuum upholstery, furniture and carpets and dispose of vacuum bags immediately.

## READMITTANCE

**Readmittance after medical treatment and abating of the symptoms. The disease must be reported immediately to the management of the nursery. They, in turn, must inform the health authorities.**

**To prevent further spreading and relapses, contact persons should also visit the treating physician.**

**A medical certificate is required!**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
SEE THE NHS WEBSITE**

