



## OLSH SCABIES MANAGEMENT POLICY

Scabies is caused by the microscopic mite *Sarcoptes scabiei* var. *hominis*. The mite is transmitted via person-to-person contact and, therefore, household contacts are at highest risk of infestation. Only 20 minutes of close skin contact is required for successful transmission. The most obvious effects of scabies on an individual are the severe itch and subsequent sleep disturbance,

### SCABIES MANAGEMENT

**Scabies will not go away without treatment.**

- As scabies is highly contagious, parents must keep their daughter/son home from school
- Seek medical assistance immediately
- Commence treatment as outlined below
- The student can return to school after 5 working days if the scabies has responded to treatment.
- Please meet your son's/daughter's class teacher who will discuss the situation with you on the first day of your child's return to school and ascertain whether he/she can continue to attend school.

### FIRST LINE TREATMENT FOR SCABIES

- Apply a permethrin-based ointment available at the pharmacy, twice a day
- The ointment must be applied from the neck downwards to the whole body not just the parts that have a rash like appearance.
- Leave the ointment on the body for 8 hours. It is advised that the ointment be applied before bedtime.
- Wash clean after 8 hours.
- Apply a second time from neck downwards to the whole body and leave for 8 hours.
- If the first application is thorough, then no repeat dose is required, as permethrin is active against all stages of the parasite's life cycle.
- If symptoms persist, please continue to keep your child home from school.
  - In this instance, a repeat application 7–14 days after the first treatment must be done.

### IMPORTANT

As scabies is highly contagious, it is advised that the whole family living in the same house be treated as above for scabies at the same time.

### SUMMARY

In the interests of the health and safety of the entire OLSH learning community, it is important that all families act with caution and care in taking prompt action to treat their son/daughter for scabies.

Please send your child to school only after the above steps for first line treatment and follow up treatment if necessary are carefully followed.



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## REFERENCES

Consultation with General Practitioner, Bellfield Medical Centre, Bellfield, Melbourne, Victoria, 30 April, 2021

Royal Australia Council of General Practitioners (RACGP)

<https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2017/may/scabies-a-clinical-update/#:~:text=First%2Dline%20treatment%20for%20scabies,treated%20at%20the%20same%20time.>