



SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**

**SCABIES CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR  
RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**

*The following precautions should assist in the development of an effective plan to control further transmission:*

- Place symptomatic resident(s) on isolation precautions in their assigned rooms. Restrict resident(s) to their room(s) for the duration of the first treatment period (8-12 hours). Following bathing to remove the first application of scabicide, discontinue isolation precautions. Isolation precautions are not necessary for prophylactic treatments (e.g., follow-up treatments or treatment of asymptomatic contacts).
- Wear cloth or disposable long sleeve gowns when applying the scabicide and for all direct resident contacts during the defined treatment period. Gowns may be reused by the same health care worker during an entire shift and then discarded.
- Wear gloves when applying the scabicide and for all direct resident contacts during the defined treatment period. The cuff of the glove should cover the wrist of the gown. Gloves should be discarded immediately following the completion of any task involving skin contact during the defined treatment period.
- Instruct visitors to wear a long sleeve gown and gloves until after the scabicide has been washed off.
- Wash hands, wrists and lower arms following removal of gowns and gloves.
- Bathe or shower the resident(s) prior to applying scabicide if the resident has not been bathed within the previous 24 hours. Wash hair and clip and clean resident's finger and toe nails.
- Apply the scabicide from the hairline and ears to the soles of the feet. Use a soft brush, such as a toothbrush, and apply scabicide under the finger and toenails. Reapply the scabicide immediately after hand washing or cleansing of the perineal-rectal area following incontinence, and other areas of the body which have become moist. If the resident perspires heavily, the scabicide may have to be reapplied to the back, buttocks and the backs of the legs several times during the treatment period.
- Place all washable personal clothes worn by the resident during the preceding week into a plastic bag, seal and send home with family members to wash and

dry. Instruct family members to wash clothes in hot water and laundry detergent and to dry in a hot dryer.

- Place all non-washable personal clothes such as shoes, coats, jackets and scarves worn by the resident during the preceding week in a plastic bag. Instruct family members to have items dry cleaned or place them into a hot dryer for 20 minutes. If this is not possible, seal the plastic bag for 5-7 days.
- Change all bed linens including blankets and spreads following the initial application of scabicide. Remove all used towels, wash cloths and bedclothes worn by the resident. Place these items in a plastic bag and send to the laundry for processing.
- Instruct laundry not to sort personal clothes, sheets, towels or bedspreads and to wash and dry these items separate from other facility laundry.
- Change bed linens, towels and clothing after the scabicide has been washed off.
- Disinfect mattress, pillow covers, bedside equipment and floors after scabicide has been washed off.
- Disinfect multiple use equipment such as walking belts and blood pressure cuffs.
- Discard any topical creams, ointments or lotions used by symptomatic cases.
- Consult physician for any medical concerns.
- For additional information on Scabies please visit <http://www.smhealth.org/cdcontrol> or you may contact the San Mateo County Health Department Communicable Disease Control Program at (650) 573-2346 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.