

Scabies Resources

Resources for Whānau

[Scabies - Health NZ information for patients and whānau](#)

[Scabies | Healthify](#)

Printable PDFs on permethrin application and environmental decontamination

English	Scabies - NPHS0027 – HealthEd
Te Reo	Scabies - NPHS0027 – MRI - HealthEd
Samoan	Scabies – NPHS0027 - SMO - HealthEd
Tongan	Scabies – NPHS0027 – TON - HealthEd

Social media for sharing

YouTube

General scabies info <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/AyYdajLWIYk>

Treating scabies <https://youtube.com/shorts/aJmruAitrol?si=LNwirXoMnAvTtsHk>

Facebook

General scabies info <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1DvsVNzeq1/>

Treating scabies <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/19HP95XD3B/>

Instagram

General scabies info <https://www.instagram.com/p/DdkY076FSwY/?hl=en>

Treating scabies <https://www.instagram.com/p/Dd2WMLKotmC/?hl=en>

Treatment advice- key points for health professionals

The following is a summary of key treatment points, not intended to replace full clinical guidance available through Health Pathways.

- Permethrin is first-line treatment and effective in the large majority of cases.
- Permethrin cream/lotion must be applied to the whole body to be effective- give out resources for whānau to support this
- The entire household should be treated on the same night. This may include multiple households, visitors to the affected household(s), and any other households/institutions where people with scabies have spent time.
- those with symptoms should stay away from school and work for 24 hours after the first treatment
- It is considered that treatment application difficulties are much more likely to be a cause of failed treatment, compared to possible permethrin resistance
- Permethrin is readily available through primary care and pharmacies, including under extended pharmacy services (effective 2 June 2026)
- Oral ivermectin is an alternative, requiring Special Authority

Environmental Decontamination

Personal treatment with cream and/or tablets is most essential to get rid of scabies. All contacts, and household members need treatment at the same time.

Environmental decontamination aims to minimise reinfestation. Fomite transmission through items (eg, clothing, bedding, or other objects) used by a person with classic scabies is uncommon. It is more likely to occur in the setting of crusted scabies as there is a higher parasite burden. Key points relating to environmental contamination are:

- Pesticide use in the home or institutional settings is not indicated
- Scabies mites usually do not survive beyond 2-3 days away from human skin contact.
- Items used within the preceding few days may be decontaminated by either hot wash, hot drier, freezing for >5h, or sealing in a plastic bag for 4 days.
- See the HealthEd resource linked above for more information on treating household items.

Information for health professionals, and evidence

[Scabies: diagnosis and management - bpacnz](#)

[UpToDate: Scabies Epidemiology, clinical features, and diagnosis](#)

[UpToDate: Scabies Management](#)

[Evidence based choices for first line scabies treatment | The BMJ](#)

[Oral ivermectin versus 5% permethrin cream to treat children and adults with classic scabies: multicentre, assessor blinded, cluster randomised clinical trial | The BMJ](#)