

Richmond School Reports Scabies Cases

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20 Carver Elementary Students weren't allowed in school Monday, because officials say they still needed a doctor's note to prove they weren't infected with scabies.

Eight teachers and one student were diagnosed with the illness last week. Cleaning crews spent the weekend sanitizing Carver Elementary School as a precaution.

The microscopic mite burrows into human skin, making it uncomfortable for the person infected.

"Probably the hallmark and the first symptom is intense itching, it's noticed more often than not at bedtime, just scratching," says Dr. Douglas Powell with Patient First.

Unlike the more common hair lice, scabies prefers skin folds, such as the hands, wrists and abdominal area.

They're identified by tiny, tell-tale tracks caused by their burrowing and egg laying in the skin.

Doctor Powell also says the menacing microscopic mites can be treated with a skin lotion.

"There's a prescription cream you apply from the top of the head to the soles of the feet, usually in the evening, you wash that off the next morning."

Because its transmitted person to person, everyone inside the home may need to be treated as a precaution.

As always, the best way to prevent scabies, is washing your hands.

School officials released a statement saying that there have been no new cases of scabies Monday at G.W. Carver Elementary, and all of the teachers infected last week have returned to school.

Stay with 8News for any developments.

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