

# THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NH DHHS HEALTH ALERT

Distributed by the NH Health Alert Network  
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October 2, 2014, 1730 EDT (5:30 PM EDT)  
NH-HAN 20141002



## Scabies Exposure at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon

### Key Points and Recommendations

1. A patient with crusted (Norwegian) scabies has been identified at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon.
2. Employees and patients who were on the affected hospital unit should undergo screening and either treatment for active infestation or presumptive treatment for those without symptoms.
3. There is extremely low risk of transmission to the general public or to any occasional visitors to DHMC.
4. New Hampshire clinicians may receive questions about this event from their patients.
5. For those exposed, DHMC will offer treatment and prophylaxis clinics.

### Background and Situation Update

On September 30, 2014, NH DPHS was notified that a patient with crusted (Norwegian) scabies was identified at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, NH.

Scabies is a skin infestation by the human itch mite. After an incubation as long as six weeks, symptoms of intense itching and a pimple-like rash can develop. It is usually spread by direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with an infested person. Crusted scabies is a severe form of scabies that can occur in people who are immunocompromised, elderly, disabled, or debilitated. Persons with crusted scabies have thick crusts of skin that contain large numbers of scabies mites and eggs. Patients with crusted scabies are very contagious to other people and can spread the infestation easily by both direct skin-to-skin contact and by contamination of items such as their clothing, bedding, and furniture. Mites can live in the environment for up to 3 days.

In consultation with NH DPHS and in accordance with CDC guidelines, DHMC is recommending screening and treatment for those who may have developed an active infection, or presumptive treatment for those exposed but not yet showing symptoms. DHMC is directly contacting persons who were on the Unit 1 West / HSCU during the index patient's hospitalization between August 14 to September 26, 2014. These persons include:

- DHMC employees and their household members
- Patients and their household members

DHMC is conducting clinics to facilitate this screening and treatments at Auditorium C-D at DHMC on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For additional information about scabies and these clinics, see the DHMC website at <http://www.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/medical-information/faq-scabies.html>

**NH DHHS-DPHS  
NH-HAN #20141002 Scabies Exposure at DHMC**

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New Hampshire clinicians may also refer patient questions to the NH DPHS Public Inquiry Line at 271-9461 during the following dates and times:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Thursday	October 2, 2014	10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday	October 3, 2014	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 4, 2014	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	October 5, 2014	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Monday	October 6, 2014	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext.5300).

To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, contact Denise Krol at 603-271-4596 or email Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

Status: Actual  
Message Type: Alert  
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From: Elizabeth A. Talbot, MD – Deputy State Epidemiologist  
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

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